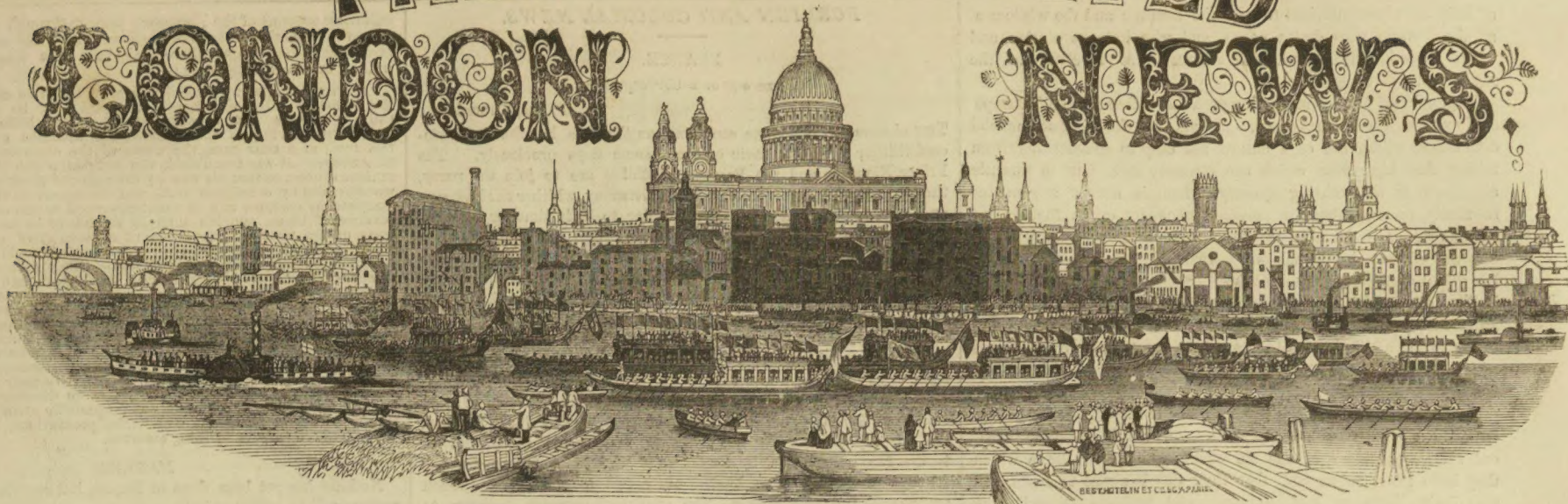


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## RENEWED CONFERENCES AT PARIS.

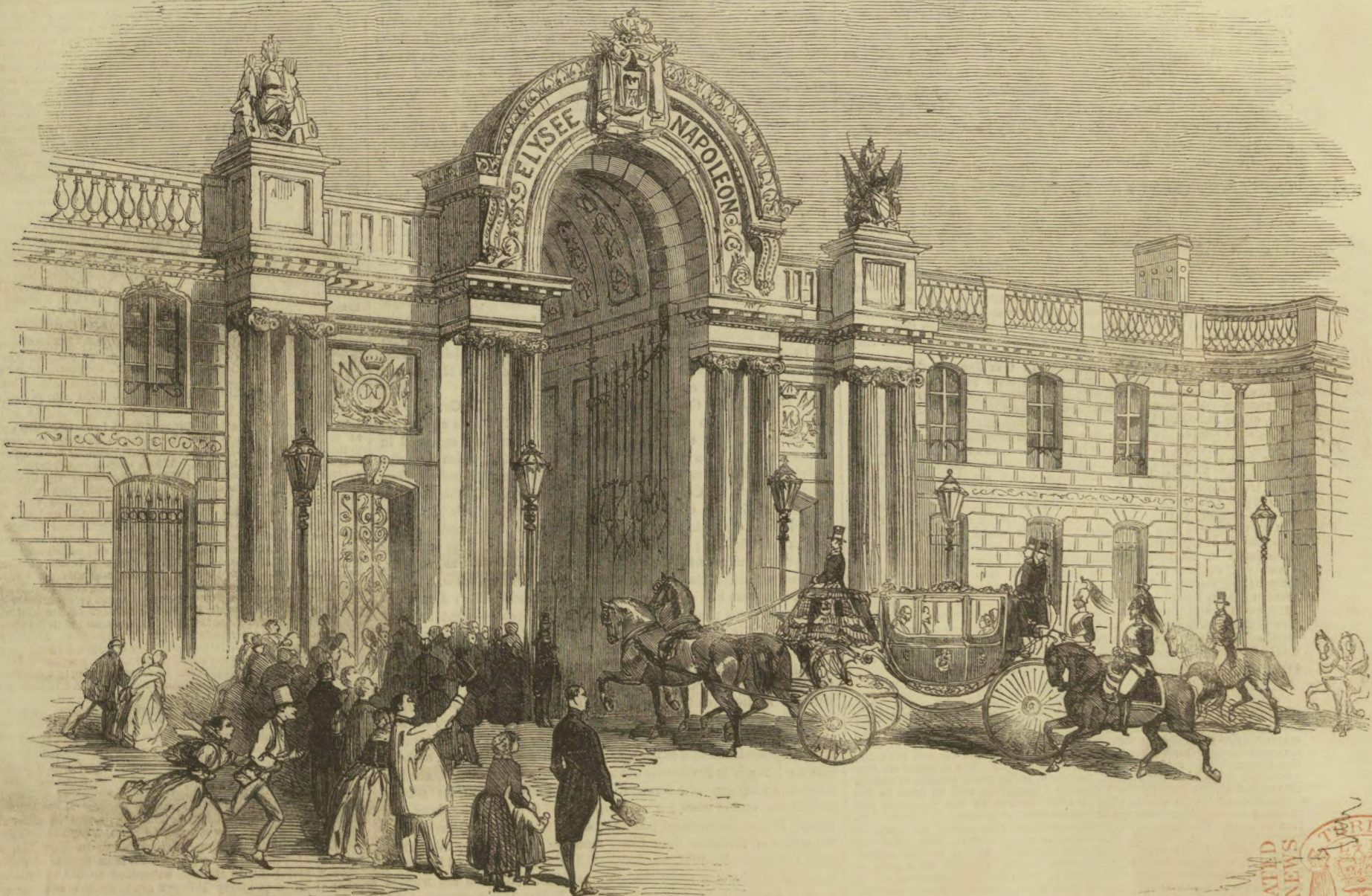
It is but little more than six months since a treaty was signed at Paris, which diplomatists fondly hoped was to give peace to Europe. The leaves then budding upon the trees have not fallen to the ground, but in the interval it has been discovered, even by the experienced adepts who put their names to the treaty, that to sign peace may be one thing, but that to make it is another. The spirit of peace has not entered into the heart of the principal belligerent. The old passions and the old ambition are not extinguished. Even the old projects are not renounced. Before the ink of the treaty had time to dry upon the parchment, the men of the pen who serve the Czar more ably—or, at least, more successfully—than the men of the sword—bethought themselves how they might evade or defeat its stipulations. They surveyed the whole field of European politics, to see in what direction diplomatic trickery could be best exerted to gain the advantages which the fortune of war had not bestowed upon the sword. The result is the discovery by the somewhat too confiding Governments of Great Britain and France, and by some other Governments not so easily deceived, that the peace is in reality no peace, and that the state of Europe is even more critical at the present moment than it was at any period during the height of the war. The necessity has, therefore, arisen

to convoke a second Conference at Paris, to supplement the work left in a state of such woeful incompleteness, and to take measures—if it be still possible—to place the affairs of Europe upon a satisfactory footing. The new Conferences will assemble within a few days. It is but too evident that they will have abundance of delicate and difficult work before them.

During the first Conference Russia stood somewhat at a disadvantage. She was foiled and partially defeated in the Crimea. Her arms had lost some portion of their *prestige*; her fleets were imprisoned behind her fortresses, or sunk under the waters; and the hostile armies of four nations stood upon her territories ready to extort, from fear, what she was unwilling to yield to reason. On the opening of the second Conference she stands upon surer ground. Her soil is free from the hosts of her victorious invaders. The Czar, in personal intercourse with his people, in the most interesting and imposing ceremony which can be offered to the eyes and imagination either of civilised or semi-civilised nations, has raised to a fever heat the enthusiasm of his people for his person, for his office, and for his cause. The impression has gone abroad through the world of Europe as well as of Asia, that, although the Czar lost half of Sebastopol, he was not so sorely hurt by the war as some of his quasi victorious opponents; that if Russia was temporarily, Turkey were permanently, weakened

by the struggle; and that the road to Constantinople is still open to the Muscovite legions whenever disunion shall arise between the Powers which were formerly leagued to maintain the equilibrium of Europe. Within the last few weeks also the Czar has gained a new and a sensible comfort, and salvo to the wounded pride of his nation, in the knowledge of a fact which was formerly but a suspicion. He has discovered, beyond a doubt, that one of his great opponents was not quite so generous as he appeared, and that the Emperor of the French consented to, if he did not force on, a premature peace, because from financial reasons he was unable to continue the war. All these, and many other circumstances which we might cite, if they were not so obvious as to force themselves upon notice, give Russia a greater hold upon the new Conferences than she had upon the last; and will not, we should think, dispose her to abate any of her high pretensions.

And while such is the position of Russia at the new Conferences, what, we may well ask, will be the position of England, of France, of Austria, of Sardinia, of Turkey, and of Prussia—who, it has been decided, shall take part in the deliberations? We must remember, before attempting to answer the question, that it is not the affairs of Turkey alone, and of the position to be assumed towards that Power by its ancient enemy the Czar, that are to be discussed, but the affairs of several other portions of Europe. Those



ARCHITECTURAL IMPROVEMENTS AT PARIS: THE PALACE OF THE ELYSEE NAPOLEON RESTORED.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)





of Italy are alone sufficient to test the courage and the wisdom of all the Powers who desire peace, and who hate revolution, and whose material and commercial interests are involved in the maintenance of tranquillity.

England and France are no longer able to dictate to all Europe, as they were a few months ago. France is in the midst of financial difficulties, which are of a nature not only to prevent her from taking that high tone which she formerly took, but to unsettle allegiance to the existing dynasty, which is not by any means so firmly rooted either in political necessity or in the love of the people as to be able to defy the rude tempest of a monetary and commercial convulsion. Austria knows this, and fastens her grip more securely upon Moldo-Wallachia. Russia knows it, and bullies when she might otherwise have endeavoured to cajole. England knows it, and resigns herself to the necessary consequences of comparative isolation, and enforced acquiescence in arrangements which, under other circumstances, she might be emboldened to resist. Turkey knows it; and, casting about for new friends, discovers that even Austria might be of service to her amid approaching difficulties, if a *quid pro quo* were offered. The revolutionists throughout all Europe know it, and are encouraged in the hope which they have never renounced, that their day is about to dawn, and that Italy, Hungary, and Germany, and perhaps Poland, may emerge as nations out of the bloody strife that is approaching.

The question of the Isle of Serpents and of Bolgrad, of the Danubian islands, of Moldo-Wallachia—important as they are, individually and collectively—may be arranged without a tithe of the difficulty that besets the great question of Italy. That question involves the whole principle of constitutional liberty, of nationality, and of the right of the great Powers to interfere by advice, or by arms, in the affairs of smaller ones. Russia, as was said by Prince Gortschakoff in his famous circular, *ne boude pas, elle se recueille* (does not sulk, she collects herself). For Russia this is, no doubt, sagacious policy. But why does she collect herself? To exercise paramount influence in Europe. To carry out her pretensions to be the arbitress of the destiny of all the kingdoms, empires, and republics of the Continent. To be the ally of all despotisms against the liberties of the nations. To play in Europe the part which the Emperor Napoleon III. has played in France. To repress popular commotions in Germany and in Austria. To maintain upon their thrones the greater and the smaller Sovereigns who yield him homage; and to permit the formation of no alliances or combinations that might endanger the supremacy of the Czar, or prevent the consummation of his projects against Turkey.

These are the reasons why Russia will not sulk, and why she has determined to collect her energies in peace or in war. And this state of things is the reward of Great Britain and France for consenting to a premature peace, and allowing a dangerous, pertinacious, and powerful foe whom they had brought to the ground to rise again unhurt, or, at most, with a few slight bruises. Will Russia under these circumstances consent to give up Bolgrad, or the Isle of Serpents, at the demand of the Conference? Or will she renounce her recently-declared protectorate of Greece or Naples? Probably she will, if France and Great Britain are very wise, very determined, and very bold. But under the actual circumstances of France it is questionable whether the Emperor Napoleon will feel inclined to support Great Britain in such a course of procedure, even if Great Britain—which is somewhat doubtful—should feel disposed to adopt it. And if these things be not done, what will England and France and Turkey have gained by the late war? Nothing but Experience—very dearly purchased;—to which may be added, the half of Sebastopol—which they have given up—and which will shortly be rebuilt, more magnificently than ever.

#### THE ARCHITECTURAL IMPROVEMENTS AT PARIS. PALACE OF THE ELYSEE NAPOLEON.

THE removal of certain portions of the old city of Paris, the formation of new streets upon their sites, and the restoration of public edifices of striking architectural character, form a series of improvements which, in magnificence, both as regards extent and embellishment, is unparalleled in this age of great cities. Their cost has already been of enormous amount; it is to be wished that sumptuousness had ensured commercial success in proportion to the taste and splendour displayed in these Imperial works; however this may be, the edifices themselves bespeak the highly-refined and artistic spirit of the age in which they were designed and executed.

From time to time we have illustrated in this Journal the progress of the great Parisian improvements; from their superb nucleus, the Louvre, to the restored gem of the Sainte-Chapelle. Our present illustration adds another instance in the *porte d'honneur*, or entrance-gate, of the *Palais de l'Elysée Napoleon*, at the angle of the Rue Faubourg St. Honoré. This entrance has been beautifully restored; the centre, which resembles a triumphal arch, is flanked by two side doorways, between coupled Ionic columns, two pairs of which support the central arch, bearing the Imperial arms, which are repeated in panels over the doorways; and the attic of the wings is surmounted with classic groups of military trophies. The Palace consists of five courts. It was originally built in 1718, after the designs of Molet, for the Count d'Eu, and was afterwards purchased and occupied by Madame de Pompadour. At her death it was bought by Louis XV., as a residence for Ambassadors Extraordinary. It was a favourite residence of Napoleon I. In 1814 and 1815 it was inhabited by the Emperor of Russia and by the Duke of Wellington. When Napoleon returned from Elba he occupied it until the defeat of Waterloo. In 1816 Louis XVIII. gave it to the Duke de Berri, on whose assassination it descended to the Duke de Bordeaux; and it now again belongs to the State. It was the official residence of the present Emperor while President of the Republic. During the recent alterations and additions the historical portions of the Palace have been spared.

CRIME IN CALIFORNIA.—Highway robbers of the most daring character are matters of daily occurrence in the interior of the State. We scarcely open an exchange from that quarter but it contains one or more accounts of some fresh outrage of this kind, often accompanied with the shedding of blood, and sometimes with loss of life. The increase of this particular crime is owing in part, no doubt, to the great number of rascals driven out of this city by the Vigilance Committee, and in part to the stringency of the times; leaving no other source to the gambling and thieving gentry than to engage in honest work or go upon the road. The former alternative being out of the question, they adopt the latter of necessity. As the Camptonsville stage was on its way to Marysville last week, with a large amount of treasure belonging to one of the express companies and a full load of passengers, it was stopped by a gang of highwaymen, who, drawing their pistols, ordered the passengers not to make any resistance at the peril of their lives. One of the express messengers, however, at once commenced firing on the rascals, which led to a general engagement, during which some twenty shots were discharged. Two of the passengers were wounded—one a woman, dangerously. Some of the assailants also were wounded, but how many, or how severely, could not be ascertained, as they fled, making their escape on horseback. They were pursued, but as yet have not been overtaken.—*San Francisco Paper.*

#### FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

##### FRANCE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

PARIS, Thursday.

THE chasses at Compiègne commence on the 20th, but the Court proceed thither to take up their quarters some days previously. The Prince Napoleon and the Princess Mathilde are to join the party, the latter having abridged her stay in Germany, whither she had gone on a visit to her mother's family, in order to be in time for the commencement of the fêtes. The Empress's health and strength have been so greatly recruited by her journey to Biarritz that she has been able to resume one of her favourite amusements—that of shooting—and last week accompanied the Emperor on a private shooting excursion in the park of St. Cloud. Her Majesty wore a costume consisting of a petticoat and jacket of green cloth, trimmed with metal buttons, a little hat, and high-heeled morocco boots. Nine pheasants and some other game were brought down by the fair sportswoman, whose guns were carried by two non-commissioned officers of the Imperial Guard. We are informed that the Prince Imperial has already done what he could to testify his sentiments as to the English alliance, by displaying a marked preference for the society and caresses of an English nursemaid over his three French governesses and two nurses. The statement proceeds, however, to inform us that the filial sentiments of the representative of the succession to the Imperial crown are all that could be desired, as the caresses of his august parents (but nothing less) are accepted by him as consolation when temporarily deprived of the presence of the object of his young affections.

The Prince Napoleon is building in the Avenue Montaigne, Champs Elysées, a palace in the modern Roman taste. The edifice is in the style of an antique temple, laden with porticos, statues, colonnades, mouldings, &c., and is of considerable extent. A very short time will be required to put to it the finishing touches.

It appears that M. de Morny's health is unfavourably affected by the climate of Russia, but that he nevertheless purposes remaining some time longer. The excessive desire here to keep on good terms with the Czar has doubtless some share in this sacrifice.

French art and French society have both experienced a serious loss in the person of M. Theodore Chassériau, one of the best representatives of the modern school. This artist, who expired in the prime of life, and probably at the zenith of his talent, combined in a remarkable degree some of the highest qualities to ensure excellence: joined to a profound respect for art, a delicate and refined taste, he possessed a vivid imagination, immense variety, and a degree of industry rarely equalled. He commenced by being a pupil of Ingres, and under him learned what that greatly over-rated artist was really capable of teaching—the habit of conscientious study and observation; a profound feeling for and admiration of the beauties of the antique, and correctness of drawing. His earlier works display, however, with these qualities, too much of Ingres' chief and radical defect—cold, heavy, stony colouring. Later, a sojourn in Africa corrected this defect, but threatened for a time to lead him into the opposite one, that of devoting more study to colour than to drawing: his natural good taste and profound knowledge and study did not, however, fail to enable him to strike the right balance in due time. In all the works of Chassériau is remarkable a degree of dignity, purity, and refinement; even his Eastern women display something of this, and his nude figures are wonderfully preserved from sensuality by its evidence. Among his principal works are a Venus Anadyomene, Macbeth's Supper, Trojan Captives by the Sea-side, an Andromeda, Combat of Arab Chiefs, Femmes de Constantine, Knights Removing their Dead, a Tepidarium, &c.; and some remarkable religious subjects—about the last (if not the last) a Descent from the Cross in the church of St. Philippe du Roule. As a member of society M. Chassériau was not less esteemed than as an artist. Joined to extreme urbanity of manners he possessed a kind heart, high principles, remarkable discretion, tact, and judgment, and a total absence of any degree of pretension or affectation. His funeral was attended by a concourse of some of the most celebrated representatives of the art and literature of the day, and by personal friends of all orders of society.

M. Ingres has lately arrived in Paris, bringing with him a large coloured drawing representing the Birth of the Muses presided over by Jupiter. He has also completed a portrait of a child, a niece of his own, of which great things are said.

Last week a deputation of workmen went to St. Cloud, to lay before the Emperor a statement of the sufferings and difficulties of their class with respect to the question of lodgings. They were, of course, well received, and obtained all the assurances that the circumstances permitted the *chef de l'état* to offer as to the removal, or at least amelioration, of the evil. Some of the new *châteaux* in the Avenue Trudaine are already inhabited, and it is probable that several more will shortly be constructed.

M. Winterhalter, the favourite portrait-painter of the Court, is engaged on a picture of the Prince Imperial. Portraits of another character—"Etudes et Portraits Politiques"—have just appeared in a volume from the pen of M. de la Guéronnière, which contains sketches of the lives of Napoleon III., the Czar Nicholas, King Leopold, Comte de Chambord, Prince de Joinville, M. Thiers, M. de Morny, and General Cavaignac. If M. de la Guéronnière's book were published in a country having a free press it would contain some startling revelations; as it is, there is little likelihood of its revealing many secrets more interesting than that of Polichinelle: so, at least, we presume under the present condition of the French press.

The Gymnase has a brilliant and deserved success with a remarkable posthumous piece of Madame Emile de Girardin—that brilliant talent which, in the latter part of its too brief radiance, became as striking for its wonderful pathos as formerly for its virile force and energy. The title we somewhat object to; it sounds decidedly vaudeville—nay, even Palais Royal; but here our objections stop. The scene is at Rennes; the epoch, the Terror. Madame de Sangeais ("le femme qui déteste son mari") adores him; but, to save his life, is compelled to adopt the rôle of a citoyenne éffrénée, furious, breathing forth fire and flame against the party he belongs to, and including himself in her frantic denunciations. More than this, she has to receive with apparent favour the detested advances of the *citoyen Rosetti*—a sort of sleek cat, ready at a word to display the claws of a tiger. It may be supposed how the pen of Madame de Girardin and the acting of Madame Rose Chéri render the palpitating interest of such a drama. No trial, no thrilling situation of agony and fortitude, is spared the heroine; and the feelings of the audience are worked upon to a pitch impossible to describe. Mélingue has created at the Gaité a new rôle in a drama of M. Paul Meurice, "L'Avocat des Pauvres."

#### THE EMPEROR IN THE FAUBOURG ST. ANTOINE.

A great deal has been said lately regarding the discontent which prevails among the working classes in the French metropolis. The

following account of the Emperor's passage through what was formerly the most dangerous suburb of Paris will show that he is determined to brave whatever danger there may be. The *Times* correspondent, writing on Wednesday, says:—

The Emperor came up yesterday from St. Cloud in an open carriage to the Tuilleries. He was hardly recognised as he passed along the Champs Elysées, and, consequently, there was little or no demonstration. On arriving at the Tuilleries he mounted on horseback, and traversed, at a slow pace, the whole of the once-formidable Faubourg St. Antoine. It was two o'clock, the hour at which the workmen were at their dinner, so that his way lay through the thick of the crowd. He was attended by a brilliant staff, and the squadron of the Cent-Gardes, complete in costume and in number, served as his escort. He rode in advance of them, and his intrepid confidence in passing through the mass of the working population at a moment of suffering and discontent, and with a display so anti-democratical, could not fail in its fascination on the lower orders of the people. The "pride, pomp, and circumstance of war" affect none more than the French, and of the French no population more than the Parisian; and therefore Napoleon III. was well and warmly received even by those who an hour before may have murmured loudest against him. He passed on at the head of the brilliant cortege, glittering in their cuirasses and helmets, to St. Maur, where he held a review and conducted the manoeuvres on the field. He returned at half-past five by the same faubourg, which was then nearly deserted, as the crowds had returned to their workshops. Some anxiety had been felt by the authorities as to the reception his Majesty might meet with, and numerous police agents in plain clothes were stationed en echelon along the way. The precautions, however prudent, proved unnecessary, as nothing occurred.

##### NAPLES.

Nothing has yet been done at Naples, but reports are still rife that matters will be settled quietly.

A letter from Vienna of the 11th, in the *Augsburg Gazette*, says:—"The intelligence has just reached us that despatches of a favourable character have been received from General Martini. King Ferdinand appears willing to send a Plenipotentiary to the Congress of Paris, if invited to do so." A letter from Berlin, in the *German Journal* of Frankfurt, says:—"The Neapolitan Government has remitted to the majority of foreign Cabinets a long circular, in which the attitude of the King is sought to be justified."

A letter from Paris, dated Wednesday evening, says:—

This day, in all probability, the note of the Allies will have been communicated by Baron Brenier to the King of Naples. The repeated assurance is given that the note in question is couched in very moderate and conciliatory terms. The effect no one supposes will be what France and England desire—namely, compliance with the earnest admonitions addressed by them to King Ferdinand. The instructions to Baron Brenier are, that if his Majesty persists in refusing he is to demand his passports, and withdraw with the whole of his Legation. Similar instructions have, no doubt, been sent to the British Minister. With respect to the fleets, it is stated that the French squadron will proceed to Malta to join the British, and that both will await there the result of the last note and the final answer of the King; and if it prove, as is anticipated, unfavourable, they are then to proceed towards, but not to, the Italian coast.

##### CHANGE OF MINISTRY IN SPAIN.

The journey of Marshal Narvaez to Madrid has not been without a purpose. The first news of his appearance there was all that could be desired. The *Epoque* stated that the conferences of the General with the Queen and with Marshal O'Donnell were highly satisfactory. All accounts say that no one could be more amiable in manner, kinder, or, apparently, more determined to keep on her Ministers than the Queen up to the last moment. At the levee, on the 10th, her Majesty's birthday, she was particularly gracious. General O'Donnell requested her to give the Grand Cross of Isabella Cattolica to the outgoing Minister Cantero; she replied that she should do so with the greatest pleasure, and not only to him, but to the whole of the Ministers, and she was pleased to add that she never had Ministers with whom she was more satisfied. In short, she was all grace and condescension. In two days afterwards they were all turned out, and the following new Cabinet appointed:—

Narvaez, President of the Council; Pidal, Foreign Affairs; Seijas, Finances; Nocedal, Interior; Arasola, Justice; Lersundi, Marine; General Sanz, Captain-General of Madrid; and General Pezuela, Director of Cavalry.

A curious encounter is spoken of which took place between General Narvaez and Guel y Rente, the husband of the Infanta, sister of the King. A letter from Madrid gives the following version:—

A serious incident, in which Marshal Narvaez figures, is a good deal talked of here. He went yesterday to pay a visit to General Alcon, the new Captain-General of the Philippine Isles, but not finding him at home went to the drawing-room to wait for him. There he found, in addition to Madame Alcon, M. José Guel y Rente and his wife, who had also called to pay a visit. The latter is an Infanta of Spain, being sister to the King and cousin to the Queen. The conversation was very animated between the lady of the house and M. Guel y Rente, and in the course of it Marshal Narvaez, on several occasions, looked at the latter in a peculiar manner. At length the gentleman, annoyed at being so regarded, cried, "I am Guel y Rente!" On this some sharp observations were exchanged, and the lady of the house having intervened, the Marshal expressed regret that he had given way to anger; but taking his hat he left the house, and immediately after sent a friend to challenge M. Guel y Rente to fight him. A meeting was fixed on, and, the fact having become known, attempts were made to effect an arrangement, but without success. M. Guel y Rente refusing for his part to give a promise not to fight. In consequence of this, the Governor of the province has caused that gentleman to be arrested. In this position the affair remains, and what will be the issue of it is not yet known. For the proper understanding of it, it is necessary to explain that some time before the departure of Marshal Narvaez from Spain, M. Guel y Rente, in a sitting of the Cortes, attacked him in very severe terms; and, when he had concluded, the Marshal, rushing from his seat, placed his cane on the other's breast and threatened him.

##### AN EXPEDITION AGAINST PERSIA.

The Bombay papers received by the last Overland Mail state that great excitement had been caused by a call for transports to accompany an expedition to the Persian Gulf, to chastise the Shah for capturing Herat in violation of the Treaty of 1853. The *Times* correspondent, writing from Bombay on the 12th ult., gives the following particulars relating to the affair:—

The Government establishments have been and are actively at work so to forward matters as to be able to dispatch the contemplated expedition to Persia within the shortest possible time after receiving the final orders from England. When such final orders may arrive is a matter not clearly known, but it is likely that the decision of the question will at latest be contained in the mail that will reach us about the 20th of October. Thus, should the word be war, the expedition will sail about the end of that month or the beginning of November. The strength of the contemplated Bombay force, and even the individual regiments of which it is to be composed, still remain uncertain. But it seems probable that it will consist at first of two brigades of infantry, two field batteries and one troop of horse artillery, a siege train, two companies of sappers and miners, and a regiment of irregular cavalry—the Poonah Horse. Each brigade will be composed of one European—Queen's or Company's—and two native regiments. The 64th, now at Belgium, in the southern part of the Presidency, and the 2nd Bombay Europeans, the 4th, 5th, 20th, and 25th Native Infantry, are spoken of as the regiments likely to be employed. Should a third brigade be organised, the 75th Highlanders, or the 86th County Downs, will form the European contingent of it. The naval portion of the preparations consists in the collecting from the various ports and fitting for active service the steamers of the Indian navy, and in chartering private vessels as transports.

##### AMERICA.—THE PRESIDENTIAL CONTEST.

The *Asia*, which arrived at Liverpool last Monday, brings news from New York to the 1st inst. The only political intelligence of much interest is that relating to the election of President, which takes place in a few weeks. The draymen of New York were to have made a great demonstration in favour of Mr. Fillmore on the evening of the 29th ult., but were prevented by a violent storm. The Democrats were to hold a great meeting in front of the Exchange in New York on the 2nd inst., to hear Governor Floyd, of Virginia. There had been a great Democratic meeting at Richmond, in Virginia, at which Mr. Wise, the Governor of the State, who is in favour of making Kansas a Slave State, because it will, according to his calculation, raise the value of slave property 100 per cent, made a wild speech against the Fremont party. After speaking about the great benefits which the Union would gain by electing Buchanan, the Pro-Slavery Governor went on as follows regarding the other alternative:—

But the fearful alternative is, what will you do if the Black Republican candidate is elected? If Buchanan is not to be elected—God grant that Fillmore, as he is a man of patriotism and principle, for I take great pleasure in testifying to his being a good man, though on the subject of slavery an Abolitionist, as I know him to be from nearly eleven years'



## OBITUARY OF EMINENT PERSONS.

## LADY BERNERS.

THE RIGHT HON. MARY LETITIA, LADY BERNERS was the elder daughter and coheir of Colonel George Crump, of Alexton Hall, Leicestershire, by his wife, Mary, third daughter of Henry William Wilson, Esq., of Kirby Cane, Norfolk, and sister of Robert, fourth, and Henry, fifth, Lords Berners. Lady Berners was born in 1790; she was married, the 24th February, 1823, to her first cousin, the Hon. Henry William Wilson, who succeeded his father, on the 26th of February, 1851, as sixth and present Lord Berners. Lady Berners died on the 30th ult., at the family seat, Keythorpe Hall, Leicestershire: her ladyship has had no issue.



## LADY O'BRIEN.

CHARLOTTE, LADY O'BRIEN, was the elder daughter and coheir of her sister Harriet, wife of Thomas Arthur, Esq., of Glenomera, county Limerick. She was married, the 13th November, 1799, to Sir Edward O'Brien, fourth Baronet, of Dromoland, county Clare, and by him (who died the 13th March, 1837) had issue five sons and four daughters. Of the latter three have been married—viz., Mrs. Arthur Martineau, Mrs. Monsell (whose husband, the Rev. Charles Monsell, died in 1851), and the Hon. Mrs. Harris (whose husband, the Hon. and Rev. C. A. Harris, is youngest son of the Earl of Malmesbury). Of Lady O'Brien's sons, four survive her. The eldest of them, Lucius, fifth Baronet of Dromoland, succeeded as thirteenth Baron Inchiquin at the decease of his kinsman, the last Marquis of Thomond, and twelfth Lord Inchiquin, who died the 3rd July, 1855. The present Lord Inchiquin's next brother is the well-known Mr. William Smith O'Brien.



## SIR JASPER ATKINSON.

SIR JASPER ATKINSON, of Portman-square, and North Frith, Kent, Provost of the ancient Corporation of Moneyers of the Royal Mint, was the second son of Henry William Atkinson, Esq., also Provost of the Moneyers. Sir Jasper was born at Dulwich, Surrey, in 1790, and, following early in life the hereditary avocation of his family in the Royal Mint, was for forty years attached to that establishment, and displayed there considerable knowledge and ability. He was knighted by patent in 1842 for services rendered, at the instance of the British Government, to France, Russia, and Turkey, from which States he also received tokens of esteem and thanks. On the abolition of his office in the Mint, he retired with a pension of 1000*l.* a year. Sir Jasper Atkinson married, the 12th May, 1819, Louisa Jane Grace, only daughter of Captain William Gyll, 2nd Life Guards, of Wyrdisbury, Bucks, and sister of Sir Robert Gyll, Kt., by whom he had an only child, Jane Laura, who is married to William Gowing, Esq., and has issue. Sir Jasper Atkinson died at Tunbridge Wells on the 6th inst.



## DR. A. C. ROSS.

DR. ARCHIBALD COLQUHOUN ROSS is a name that has lately appeared before the English public in connection with the efforts recently made in this country for the relief of the poor inhabitants of Madeira, suffering under an unusually severe visitation of cholera. He practised as a physician in Madeira, and had left the island, for the summer, before this pestilence, hitherto a stranger to its shores, had afflicted it. So soon as the intelligence reached England, he united with other friends of the island to obtain supplies of medicine and food; and, having contributed greatly towards this object by his exertions, he returned without delay to that place which he conceived to be the post of his public duty, and not merely on account of his wife and children, who were in a position of comparative safety. On the 30th of August he landed in Madeira, and offered himself to the service of the local Government. From the first moment of his return he devoted himself with too unsparing a zeal to his arduous duties, giving himself up, as was his custom, to the special service of the poor, and establishing a hospital, with the sanction of the Portuguese authorities, for the treatment of the disease on a system which had commended itself to his judgment, from observations made by him in Paris a few years ago. His constitution, naturally delicate, could not sustain the fatigue to which he subjected it; and, in a week after his landing, he sunk under a rapid and severe attack of cholera, which the skill and assiduity of his professional brethren, Portuguese and English, could not overcome. He was interred in the English Cemetery on the same day with Mr. Edwards, a merchant of great worth, and for more than fifty years a resident in the island. Though the cholera was on the decline in Funchal at the time, these two deaths, falling together, struck unusual gloom into the minds of the English; and may, perhaps, in England have a tendency to counteract the belief, though the facts happily do not admit of its being impugned, that Funchal is now (24 Sept.) almost freed from the disease, and that it is quickly disappearing from almost every other part of the island. Dr. Ross, no doubt, fell a victim to his excessive humanity and public spirit, and closed his life in a manner quite consistent with the whole tenor of it. To him his profession had been a labour of love rather than a pursuit of gain. His doors were daily thronged by the Portuguese poor for advice; and in Funchal, and the neighbouring villages, the news of his death was received with unfeigned lamentation. In 1836 he had received from General Dallas, then Governor of St. Helena, a handsome piece of plate in testimony of kindness shown by him to the sick poor of that island; and on the 6th of September, 1856, his remains were followed to the grave by his Excellency Senhor Couceiro, the Civil Governor of Madeira. No other mark of respect could so well evince the merit and worth of Dr. Ross; for Senhor Couceiro, throughout the pestilence which has already carried off 7000 persons out of the 110,000 comprised within his government, has exhibited the noblest qualities and the highest capacity, and won the confidence and gratitude of every heart, English as well as Portuguese. Dr. Ross was a native of Scotland, and had attained the age of forty-seven years. His private virtues and affectionate disposition endeared him to his friends, and his death fell as a domestic sorrow upon every one of them: on the loss to his family it is needless to dwell. A firm and enlightened member of the Church of England, his last moments were consoled by its commendatory prayers; and no British name will be more durably or tenderly remembered in Madeira than that of Dr. Ross.

## CHARLES ROWCROFT, ESQ.

CHARLES ROWCROFT, the ex-Consul of Cincinnati, was son of the late British Consul Rowcroft, who was unfortunately shot in the execution of his duty at Lima, in 1824. Charles Rowcroft, the son, was born on the 12th July, 1798, and was educated at Eton. He was subsequently a well-known political writer, and for some time conducted the *Courier*. He was also a writer of fiction, and his "Tales of the Colonies" were deservedly popular. He edited *Hood's Magazine* for some time after the death of that lamented poet and humorist. In 1852 he was appointed her Britannic Majesty's Consul at Cincinnati, in Ohio. Hardly had he arrived at his post when the Russian war broke out, and he had to incur the unjust accusation (as the judicial inquiry proved it to be) of a breach of the neutrality laws of the United States, by raising and levying soldiers for her Majesty's service in an embarrassing question which arose in the course of the enlistment trials, relative to the discovery of an absurd conspiracy for the invasion of Ireland by naturalised Irishmen resident in America. Having had his exequatur withdrawn by the American Ministry at the same time with the withdrawal of Mr. (now Sir John) Crampton and those of the other two Consuls, Mr. Rowcroft left New York, having been in office about four years, and embarked, on the 15th August last, for England, in the American ship *Cherubim*. He died on his passage on the 23rd of the same month. The master of the vessel writes: "His death was certainly mysterious and sudden, and I cannot easily persuade myself that it was natural." The perpetual anxieties and persecutions which Mr. Rowcroft underwent after the month of July, 1855, undermined a strong constitution. He lived in perpetual fear of his life from the threats of the lower class of the Irish emigrants who surrounded him, and who carried out their native antipathy against everything British. For some months in

the last year of his consulship he sat in his court armed with a revolver and a sword-cane, and he sat in his house with the shutters closed, in order to avoid being the mark for an assassin. The long suffering and mysterious death of Mr. Rowcroft, who leaves a widow and family to lament his loss, have excited general sympathy.

**WILLS.**—The will of Sir Thomas Digby Aubrey, Bart., of Oving House, Berks, was proved under 160,000*l.*; Richard Palmer Roupel, Esq., of Streatham-hill, 120,000*l.*, the whole of which he has bequeathed to his widow; W. H. Mendham, Esq., Old Windsor, Berks, 80,000*l.*; J. W. Jackson, Esq., Brunswick-square, 50,000*l.*; J. Sharp, Esq., Endsleigh-street, 35,000*l.*; Edward Wood, Esq., Montpelier House, Kentish Town, 35,000*l.*; Rev. W. Cooper, B.D., Rural Dean of West Rassen, and Chaplain to the Queen, 16,000*l.*; Rev. W. M. Mousley, Vicar of Cold Ashby, 7000*l.*; Rev. W. Elisha L. Faulkner, M.A., Perpetual Curate of St. James's, Clerkenwell, 4000*l.* Miss Elizabeth Twentymann has left the following bequests to charitable institutions in Liverpool:—The Blue-Coat Hospital, 500 *gs.*; Liverpool Infirmary, 500 *gs.*; Northern Hospital, 400 *gs.*; Southern Ditto, 400 *gs.*; The Dispensary, Church of England Schools, Ladies' Charity, Blind School, Welsh Charity, Female Penitentiary, Provident Society, Female Orphan School, Deaf and Dumb School, Ophthalmic Institution, Ragged School, Governesses Institution, each 100 *gs.*; Lying-in Charity, 150 *gs.*; Strangers' Friend Society, 50 *gs.*—making a total of 4000*l.*

**NEW CHURCH.**—The small church of Tretire, near Ross, in the county of Hereford, has lately been consecrated by the Lord Bishop of the diocese. It is built after the beautiful design of Mr. T. H. Wyatt, in the Early Pointed style, with nave, chancel, porch, bell-turret, vestry, and organ-chamber. It will accommodate about 120 persons, which will abundantly suffice for the wants of the parish. The three bells were cast by Mears; the organ, a beautiful instrument, built by Walker, of London. Altogether the church is a very elegant and substantial specimen of architectural skill.

**AN EDITOR KILLED IN A DUEL.**—A telegraphic despatch from Charleston informs us that Mr. W. R. Taber, editor of the *Mercury* of that city, was killed in a duel on Monday afternoon. Mr. Taber since his connection with the *Mercury* has been noted as one of the most strenuous advocates of slavery extension.—*New York Times*.

**"LA TRAVIATA" AND THE PAPAL NUNCIO.**—The opera of "La Traviata" was performed on Wednesday last by the Italian company, and, thanks to the intelligence, zeal, and admirable singing of Madame Bosio, it achieved a great success. The house was fully if not excessively crowded; and the Grand Duchess Constantine, the Grand Duke, and their little son were among the audience; so also—oh Dr. Mac Hale, Bishop of Tuam (saving the Titles Act!) and protagonist of the Church which alone is true against the corruptions of faith and morals of Protestantism and the evils of heresy, listen to this!—so also was he of the Princes Chigi who represents before the eyes of the Russian Court and of the Greek Church its only great secular rival now-a-days, who is the Nuncio of the Vicegerent of God, the Legate of the descendant of Peter. Perched in the third row of the stage boxes, just above the head of the Grand Duchess, sat the Ambassador du Saint Siege, &c. *Vidi meos oculos vidi*, and except that a poor Anglican Bishop cannot so much as look at a fox-hunt without incurring the indignation of the Christian world—plus that of the Church of Rome in Ireland—I would not have thought the circumstance worth record. His Excellency (or his Eminence, or whatever his title may be) is a very clever, agreeable, and accomplished gentleman, and, perhaps, after all, it was in the way of edification that he witnessed the exciting and worldly, if not immoral, tableaux of "La Traviata."—*Letter from Moscow, September 30.*

**BRAZILIAN (PERNAMBUCO) RAILWAY.**—On the 30th August his Excellency the President of the province visited the railway works, accompanied by H.B.M. Consul, Sir John Scott Tucker, resident engineer for the company; Sir John Bayliss, engineer, representative of the contractor; Sir Francisco Raphael de Mello Rego, present Director of the Public Works of the Province, and many other gentlemen. Leaving the village of Affogados on horseback, his Excellency and company followed the new turnpike road to Imberibeira; whence they followed the line of railway (except at the marshes, rivers, and rivulets, where the work is not complete), for an extension of thirteen miles (to Eng. Cedro), which is the extreme of the work, on which there were employed about 1300 labourers. The greater part of the earthworks on this portion are complete. The engineers informed his Excellency that the first section of the work (twenty miles) to Villa do Cabo would be completed in March next; the second, terminating at the Escada, would be completed in December, 1857; and the third in March, 1858. On the conclusion of the visit to the works the company were conveyed in carriages to the Pontezinho, where was constructed a beautiful tent of cocoa-nut leaves, hung with green and yellow draperies. Here an excellent lunch was served; toasts were drunk, prefaced by speeches which showed the harmony existing between Brazils and Great Britain. The company then returned to the city, where they arrived about six o'clock in the afternoon, and accompanied his Excellency to the palace.

## HUMBOLDT AT HOME.

There have been three constellations of Germanic genius in the nineteenth century. The first was that of Weimar, which shone with such brilliancy, and was composed of stars of the first magnitude—Goethe and Schiller, Herder and Lessing, Wieland and Fichte, with the occasional advent of such meteors as a Staël. Rome was an empire city. Weimar was a village. Were the Horaces, Virgils, and Ciceros of the old Augustus greater than the Goethes and Schillers of the modern Charles Augustus? We doubt it. Goethe was the pleasant Horace and the austere author of "De Officiis" comprised in one personality.

If the Good was adored at Weimar, the Beautiful received fitting homage at Munich, under the auspices of Louis of Bavaria. Here the taste and hardihood of a Kleuze has raised those Aladdin structures which reveal a greatness of conception denied to the flimsy luxury of Augustus the Strong. Here fresco has been revived, not faintly, but with all the fulness of the Cinque Cento; and sculpture unconfined to an unmeaning multiplication of busts, has fixed for the admiration of ages the union of beauty and action.

The third of these Germanic constellations has been that of Berlin. With historians such as Ranke and Raumer, and an observer of nature such as Humboldt, who can refuse to Berlin the claims of cultivation of the True? But Humboldt is not a pure local German or Prussian; his life has been full of brilliancy and variety. First was that period of youthful activity in Germany where he laid the foundation of his knowledge. Then those voyages in South and Central America, which founded his reputation. With his residence at Paris, from the beginning of the Empire, dates the brilliant part of his existence. Monge, Berthollet, Denon, and others of scarcely inferior capacity and reputation, had just returned from the East. The valley of the Nile and its antiquities, which had been ancient to the ancients themselves, and the wonders of nature in the New World, were to Humboldt and these men the delightful media of intellectual exchange. In literature Fontanes was an insufficient substitute for André Chenier; but, *en revanche*, the poetical prose of a Chateaubriand was in all the freshness of its effect upon the public mind, for the fame of the author of "Atala," "René," and the "Genius of Christianity," was not yet bankrupt by the perurilities of the "Congress of Verona." The arts, too, flourished. David and Spontini were in full activity; and on the stage Talma was in the plenitude of his power, and Mademoiselle Georges the Queen of the theatre; the former not yet what Paul Louis Courier called, twenty years later, "Cet amant de soixante ans, gros, lourd, et à voix rauque," nor the latter the violent declaimer of the *Lucrece Borgia* of our own day.

Such was the Paris of the Empire which Humboldt declares to have been the most interesting social spectacle of his life. But, after the year 1815, Germany had a new existence—social, political, literary, and scientific. Goethe, reproached as he was for political indifference, had, in fact, by his voluminous writings in his mother tongue, and his ministerial activity in Weimar, done more to counteract the Gallomania in Germany than what lies on the surface. The military reaction which followed freed Germany from a continuous state of war; and, on the death of Goethe, in 1832, Humboldt was called, by general acclaim, to the intellectual supremacy of Germany—but with a difference. The great poet and moralist had frequently diverged into science; Humboldt, the scientific observer, gifted with no inconsiderable amount of the expansive power of the poet, emerged from the details of science to the morality of the universe. Examining minutely the different branches of science, he arrived at their points of common divergence, that great central trunk of vital force which has its root in the divine power alone.

No wonder, then, that there should be curiosity as to the familiar existence of the magnates of human knowledge. Luther's room at

service with him in Congress—I say, God grant that he may be elected if Buchanan is not. But, Sir, he is out of sight in this race. He will serve to distract and divide neighbour from neighbour in the South, and to fuse foes in the North. His name will serve to shield some bad men who really do not mean an honest *bond fide* support of him (loud cheers). It will serve to keep off some good men, and divide them from the democracy, though I am glad to see that the best of them are beginning to concede that democracy is the only hope of safety. But, if Fremont is elected, is it a wrong, they will ask, that one man is elected instead of another? Never will we say that that is a wrong. Fremont is nothing (Cheers). He is less than nothing in my estimation (Enthusiastic cheers). He is but a mere personation of Black Republicanism—the bearer of the black flag (Cheers). The question will not be, "Shall Fremont reign over you and me?" but it will be, "Shall the black flag be erected—shall the higher law be executed by the President of the United States over the reign of the Constitution and the laws? Shall property be invaded with impunity? Yes, you will find hundreds that will say—they begin already to say—"Oh, wait—wait for some overt act—wait for him to do some wrong." Tell me, will any person entertaining feelings of self-respect, having the spirit and courage of a man, wait to prepare for war while its cloud is in the horizon until after the declaration of war is made? Tell me, if the hoisting of the Black Republican flag in the hands of an adventurer, while the arms of civil war are already clashing, is not to be deemed an overt act and a declaration of war? Well, Sir, you not only hear the cry, "Wait, wait!" and that, too, in the sacred name of the Union—that can only be saved by action now—they will say, "Wait, wait, wait," not only in the sacred name of Conservatism—which they are crushing—but they will go further. My friend (Mr. Scott) asked, this evening, what Southern man would dare to take office under Fremont? I tell him man after man—I can lay my finger upon them—that will say, "Oh! you will allow us to take office, because we will go in to protect your rights!" They will have us wait that they may have the privilege of holding office. If you submit to the election of Fremont you will prove what Seward and Burlingame have said to be true—that the South cannot be kicked out of the Union. There will be no limit to aggression. There will be an unlimited degrading submission. In this state of things what do we see? The face of legerdemain played by parties pretending to be opposed to each other every day, at every convention, and every meeting of the people, pretending to quarrel and then fusing—those that style themselves old line Whigs calling themselves the "other" party, and the Know-Nothings calling themselves the "tother" party (Laughter and cheers). The Whigs hold a convention, and you see it full of Know-Nothings; and the Know-Nothings hold a convention, and you see it full of Whigs; and they claim to be the "other" party or the "tother" party, according to the circumstances, while they are all fusing in the North and distracting the South. How long are you Southern people to be honeyfugged, cajoled, and cheated out of your rights and peace, and social safety, by this sort of legerdemain? I believe—confidently believe—that the God of nations has an eye over the destinies of this land, and that the eyes of the people will be opened before the day of election, and that they will not be allowed to strike the blows of blind giants upon the Constitution, and thereby involve all in one indiscriminate ruin (loud cheers). I hope and trust in God that we shall be saved from such a calamity (Cheers). He is a deadly enemy to his country; he is a dastard; he is a demon; he is guilty of the sin of Cain; he is the worst of murderers—a fratricide, who would, without sufficient cause, light the flames of civil war. But—

Rather than wear dishonoured chains,  
Or follow capives at the trophied car,  
Give us again the wildness of our woods,  
And the fierce freedom of our great forefathers.

## NAVAL AND MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.

THE Earl of Cardigan, Inspector-General of Cavalry, arrived at Newbridge on the 9th inst., and on the following day made a very minute inspection of the 1st Royal Dragoons and Scots Greys. His Lordship and staff occupy quarters at the camp with Lieutenant-General Sir R. England.

SIR COLIN CAMPBELL, Inspector-General of Infantry, accompanied by the Adjutant-General, paid an unexpected official visit to Chatham garrison on Tuesday, for the purpose of making an inspection of the Provisional Battalion. It was expected that an inspection of the troops would have been made in the afternoon; but, owing to the length of time occupied in the examination of the books, it did not take place.

The expedition now getting ready for the Persian Gulf will, according to a letter from Bombay, amount to 5050 men, besides seamen and marines, who will amount to 1000 more; fourteen steamers, six of them carrying from ten to four -68-pounders; ten heavily-armed gun-boats, four schooners, and other craft for landing troops; about twenty or twenty-four transports.

Letters from the *Royal Albert*, bearing the flag of Admiral Lord Lyons, dated the 2nd of October, announce that she was making preparations to winter above the South-bridge within the Golden Horn, and that, in consequence of the non-execution of the Treaty of Paris by Russia, her Majesty's steam-frigate *Magicienne*, the *Lynx*, steam-corvette, and the *Wescr*, steam gun-boat, had re-entered the Black Sea, to be followed forthwith by the *Future* steam-frigate.

HER MAJESTY'S steam-sloop *Fury* went out of Portsmouth harbour on Saturday last to try her engines, prior to being reported ready for sea. She is intended for the China station, where she did much execution against the pirates of those seas during her first commission. The screw gun-boat *Bustard* will accompany her.

OFFICERS commanding regiments and dépôts are instructed to submit the names of officers and soldiers whom they consider entitled to the "Victoria Cross," in reward for distinguished services performed before the enemy in the field in the Crimea.

THE Horse Guards authorities have issued the annual general order regarding leave of absence to officers and men during the winter. The leave is in all cases to terminate on the 10th of March next, on which date all officers and men are to be present with their regiments. No officer is allowed to quit the United Kingdom without having first received permission from her Majesty. A field officer, and one half of the captains and subaltern officers, are always to be present with their regiments, and the proportion of men allowed to be absent is not to exceed ten per troop or company.

By the reduction in the Army to the half-pay list of officers belonging to regiments of infantry having sixteen companies, and which came into operation on the 1st inst., 197 Captains, and 430 Lieutenants, making a total of 627 officers, are placed on half-pay. It is expected that the reduction in cavalry regiments, the number of troops in which were during the war augmented, will come into operation at the end of the present month.

THE authorities at the head-quarters of the Royal Engineers establishment at Brompton Barracks, Chatham, have given their permission for the formation of evening classes for the instruction of the non-commissioned officers belonging to the Royal Sappers and Miners in military drawing and fortification. The classes are under the direction of Sergeant-Major J. Jones, of the Royal Engineers; and a number of non-commissioned officers have availed themselves of the opportunity of obtaining a knowledge of those branches of military science.

**MASSACRE AT WOODLARK ISLAND.**—Intelligence has reached Sydney within the last few weeks of one of those frightful massacres of which the annals of the South Sea Islands trade afford but too many examples. In this instance fifteen persons have been murdered; of whom one was an Italian missionary, and the other fourteen—the master and crew of the brig *Gazelle*, of Sydney—were British subjects. The scene of the outrage was Woodlark Island, a place of considerable extent near the south-east point of New Guinea; and the perpetrators were the natives of that island, among whom the mission to which the slaughtered priest belonged had laboured for eight years—with how little real effect the result shows. The *Gazelle* sailed from this port in August last, with supplies for the Woodlark Island mission. But, from the ill health of the missionaries, and various causes, this mission had been previously abandoned, and its members arrived there after the *Gazelle* had sailed. In the mean time the *Gazelle* arrived at her destination; but, running too near the reef, and missing stays, she went ashore. Now, it has ever been the custom, it would seem, of the Woodlark Islanders to murder all shipwrecked mariners, and this catastrophe to the *Gazelle* was followed by an immediate combination of all the men in the three nearest villages (the very people among whom the missionaries had been located) for the murder of all on board. The plan was deliberated upon and determined. The ill-fated vessel was surrounded by savages who, with their tomahawks concealed, made gestures and professions of friendship. All were killed without any resistance, except the temporary overthrow of a savage by a blow from the fist of one of the seamen. Partly from the confusion following the wreck, and partly, perhaps, because it was presumed that the missionaries were still on the island, and were capable of holding these usually ruthless savages in check, no preparation for resistance had been made. This occurred in September. The reason why it was not heard of sooner was that the late Executive Council, believing that the *Gazelle* had been lost at sea, declined to send a vessel in search of her. A small schooner named the *Favourite* was chartered by the friends of the murdered missionary, and, after having successfully evaded a hostile attempt from the same tribes, brought to Sydney the news of the *Gazelle's* fate, and the fate of all on board. The wreck of the vessel was seen and identified, and the particulars of the massacre itself ascertained from natives, one of whom was brought to Sydney.—*Sydney Herald*.





BARON HUMBOLDT IN HIS STUDY.

Wittenberg is to this day an object of curiosity to the traveller. Should we not prize a frieze rescued from the ruins of Athens, which might represent to us Aristotle in deep study, or interrupted by the gambols of his youthful daughter? or a fresco of Pliny, such as those of Pompeii? We know how Buffon looked at the French Academy *en grande tenue*. We should prefer seeing him in the favourite pavilion of his chateau at Barle Duce in his dressing-gown, penning the description of that wonderful biped called man. Our readers have seen portraits of Humboldt, the Councillor and Placeman, decorated with orders on breast and button-hole; but we apprehend they will not undervalue the more familiar representation of the illustrious author of "Cosmos" in his private study, the Tarry-at-Home of the Traveller of the Andes and the Oural, where we see not inappropriately suspended on the wall, a map lettered in broad English, "The World."

Humboldt is now no less than eighty-seven years of age, having entered his eighty-eighth year on the 14th ult. His winters are spent at Berlin, in the room we represent. During the summer he is frequently at Potsdam with the King, on a footing similar to that of Goethe with Carl August at Wilmenau. Voltaire at Sans Souci! What a wide philosophic interval does that suggest! The grey vapours of Rousseau that preceded the dawn of the religious sentiment of the nineteenth century; the timid idealism of Reid and Stewart; the transcendental idealism of Fichte; the redressed balance of Cousin, and that large

*Ein treuer, Bild meines  
Arbeits Zimmers, als ich  
den 2. October 1814 des  
Herrn schied.*  
A. Humboldt

BARON HUMBOLDT'S AUTOGRAPH.

philosophy of the present age which, unlike the low materialism of a Voltaire, teaches us to rise from creation to an omnipotent Creator—a large and enlightened philosophy, of which Humboldt is one of the very ablest and most practical exponents.

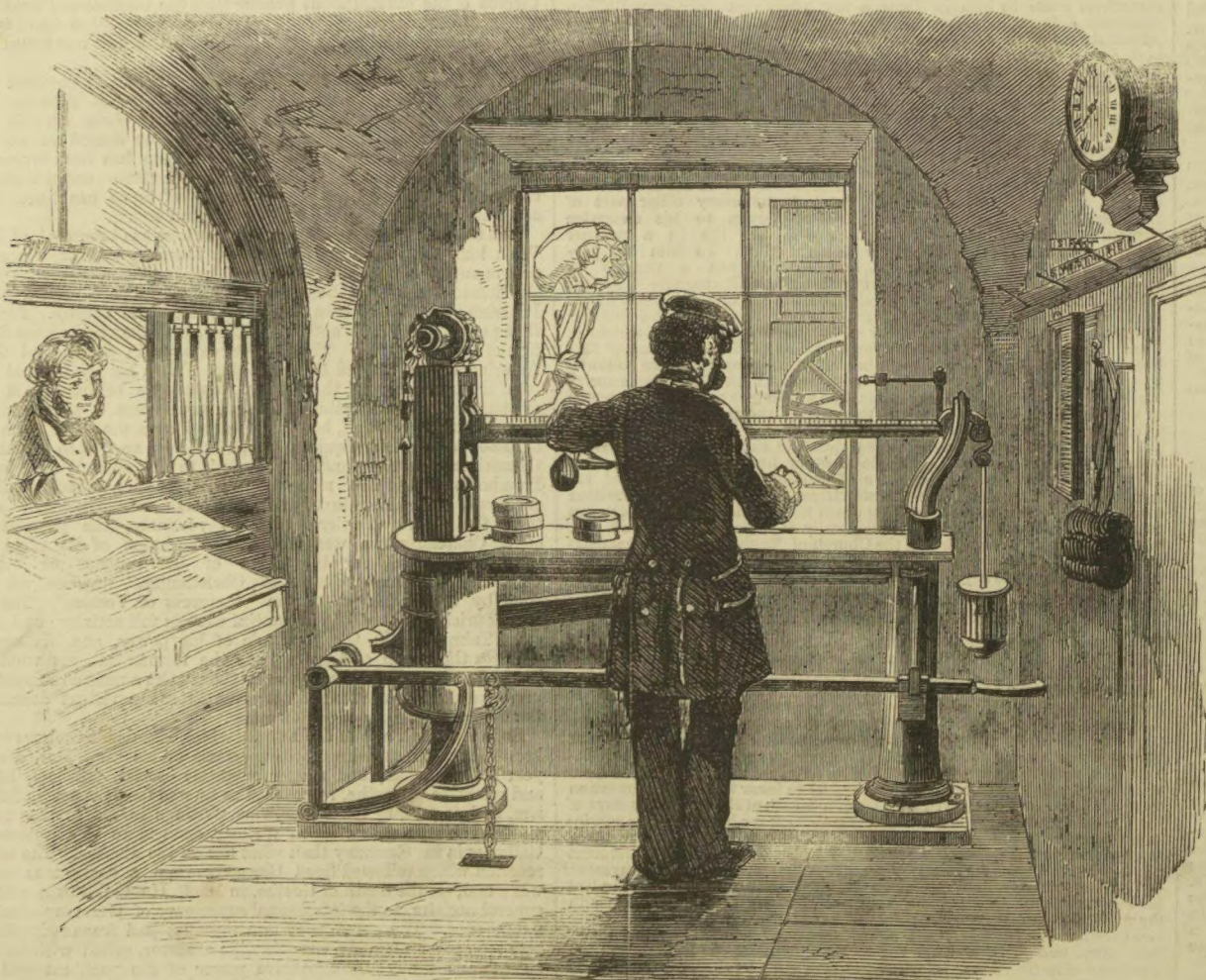
#### WEIGHING MACHINE AT THE GENERAL POST-OFFICE.

THE object of this machine is to enable the Post-office authorities at St. Martin's-le-Grand to weigh, *en masse*, the letters and newspapers sent daily from the office to the provinces—a work hitherto done in detail, at much cost of time to the duty. When it is borne in mind that not less than 71,000,000 newspapers per annum—or about 200,000 every day—pass through the Post-office, and that the average

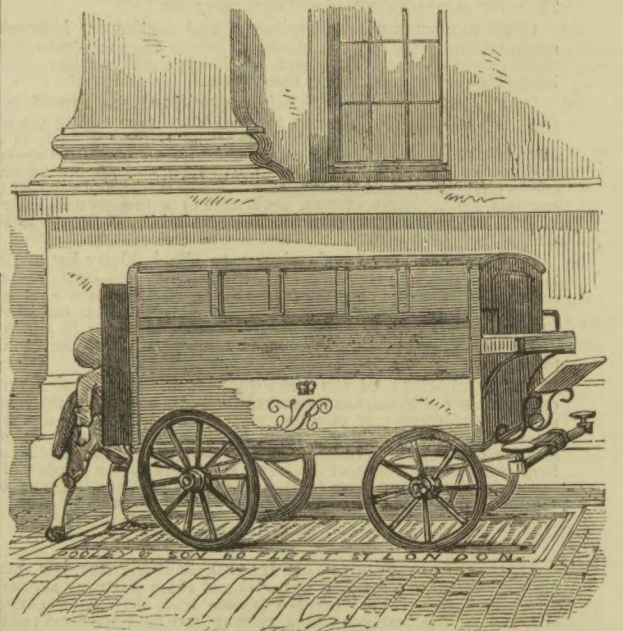
weight of each is not less than three ounces; and that the number of "book packets," exclusive of newspapers, which now pass through the London office, is at the rate of about 1,400,000 per annum, being an increase of more than a million, or of 273 per cent. on the number in 1854, and that the average weight of each packet is from 4 ozs. to 10 ozs.—it is quite clear that the application of machinery to this purpose must prove a desirable acquisition.

This new machine is placed opposite the superintendent's office at the north end of the building, in the track of the vehicles on leaving the yard. The platform is 12 ft. by 8 ft.; it is of cast iron, and is surrounded by a cast-iron kerb, which is secured to granite blocks by holding-down bolts, and forms a bond to those blocks, as well as a guard against their slipping and wearing away by the action of the vehicles passing over it. The platform and its kerbs are formed with projecting steads and ribs in such manner as to prevent the feet of horses from slipping, in whatever direction they are driven over it.

The steelyard which indicates the weights, is sustained by an iron frame composed of two pillars with connected base and entablature, and is placed across the window of the office in the Guards Department; where suitable desk and other fixtures are arranged for convenience of the clerk in charge.



THE WEIGHING MACHINE AT THE GENERAL POST-OFFICE.



THE POST-OFFICE WEIGHING MACHINE.—THE VAN PASSING OVER THE TEAM.

The office being in the basement, whose floor is below the level of the roadway, the engineer has had to contrive his machinery so as to overcome the difficulties presented by so unusual a position. This has been so accomplished that no difference is presented to the eye between this weighbridge and one of ordinary construction, nor is any impediment created to the perfect freedom of its action.

There is another peculiarity which is worthy of notice, namely—the reduction in the extent of masonry common in the erection of these apparatus: here we have merely the retaining walls of the rectangular pit; the fulcrum of the lever being sustained within those walls, and their supports deriving connection and additional strength from the iron kerb.

The steelyard is of the kind patented by the manufacturers, and is suspended from compound levers, by means of which it and the other parts liable to wear by use are ungearred, and placed perfectly free from action, except at the moment of ascertaining the weight.

The steelyard with its frame is exceedingly compact and simple in its construction and working, and takes up so little room as to offer no obstruction to the ordinary work of the office. The operation of weighing is brief and exact.

The patentees and manufacturers are Messrs. Henry Pooley and Son, of 89, Fleet-street, and the Albion Works, Liverpool. The machine, we understand, is now in full operation.



SKETCHES IN THE SANTHAL COUNTRY.



SANTHALS.



AN ENGINEER'S PEONS BEING DRILLED.

We resume our characteristic Sketches taken on the works of the East Indian Railway in the Santal country. The Santals portrayed are—No. 1, Santal sketched during his trial for the Murder of Mr. L. Braddon. No 2 and 3, the Leaders of a Party who Murdered a Village of Danghurs. No. 4, Tipsah—a "goindah" (or informer)—a man who has caught eleven of the Santal ringleaders and murderers, during the late insurrection.

Next is the scene of an engineer's peons being drilled. The Government of Bengal not being able to frame such a constabulary as can secure the safety of the inhabitants of the Santal country, they issue arms to the railway engineers. These arms are placed in

the hands of peons, whose appearance, when so encumbered, is certainly not suggestive of an effective force.

A Pig-sticking Scene shows one of the sports of India. The moment taken is the remount, after tiffin.

Caragola Fair is a fair held in the Purneah district. The principal commodities brought for sale are cloth, muslins, ironware, gums, brass pots and plates, chairs, and horses. With the exception of the cloths, which come from Calcutta and the upper provinces, all of these are the produce of Mougyhr. The scene is a lively one: Europeans are talking to the Darjeeling Hill people in the foreground. Behind, on the right, cloth-merchants are chaffering their

wares; on the left an up-country Burkindaz is dealing for a tat (or pony), and in the distance may be seen a Rajah on his elephant passing through the maze of tents and sheds.

A Danghur, next portrayed, is one of the Nagpore people. The Danghurs come from Nagpore to find labour in Bengal: many of them getting cheap lands, have settled in the Damun-i-Kot. They are the best labourers employed on the line of railway.

The Santals, it will be remembered, though possessing many of the characteristics of the real hill tribes, are still in many respects distinct from their Highland neighbours. They occupy rather the lower slopes of the Rajmahal hills than the hills themselves; and, extending as



A PIG-STICKING SCENE.

they do from Bhaugulpore to Orissa, they form a sort of connecting link between the various hill tribes which occupy the higher regions of that section of the country. They are little better than savages; for the most part destitute of fire-arms; but they in a great measure make up for this deficiency by their skill in the use of the bow, which they do not hesitate to render more deadly by the cruel device of poisoned arrows. Their religion is a simple, barbarous idolatry the worship of stocks and stones, without any of those

mystical refinements by which the idolatry of the genuine Hindoos is overlaid. Their mythology, too, in comparison with that of the Hindoos, is almost a blank, and they have no notion of caste. Their food consists of anything that can be eaten—from toads and caterpillars up to tigers and horned cattle, for the flesh of kine is not forbidden to them. As to their vices, it is certain, from their recent proceedings, that they combine cowardice with cruelty to a remarkable degree—for they war with women and children as well as

men; and, unlike the North American Indian, who prizes a warriors scalp, the head of a woman is to the Santal the most acceptable trophy. But with all this the Santals are distinguished for a love of truth; which, singular enough, exists nowhere else among the natives of India. Their numbers are said to be 100,000 fighting men, and if they are joined by the other hill tribes, the number of the Vindhyan hill men capable of being marshalled against us would become formidable indeed.



CARAGOLA FAIR.



A DANGHUR.



## CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK.

SUNDAY, Oct. 19.—22nd Sunday after Trinity. Swift died, 1745.  
 MONDAY, 20.—Capitulation of Ulm, 1805. Battle of Navarino, 1827.  
 TUESDAY, 21.—Battle of Trafalgar—Nelson killed, 1805.  
 WEDNESDAY, 22.—Lord Holland died, 1840.  
 THURSDAY, 23.—Royal Exchange founded, 1667. Battle of Edgehill, 1642.  
 FRIDAY, 24.—Peace of Westphalia, 1648. Edict of Nantes revoked, 1685.  
 SATURDAY, 25.—Battle of Balacava, 1854. Battle of Agincourt, 1415.

TIMES OF HIGH WATER AT LONDON-BRIDGE,  
FOR THE WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 25, 1856.

Sunday.	Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.
h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m
5 20	5 45	6 5	7 10	7 45	8 35	9 10
10 10	10 45	11 20	11 55	12 30	1 05	1 40

Will be ready on the 31st, price One Shilling.

**THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON ALMANAC FOR 1857**, containing Twelve splendid Fine-Art Engravings, Twelve elegant Designs Emblematic of the Month; Portraits of eminent Naval, Military, and Diplomatic Men connected with the late War; Notes of the Months, Articles of the Calendar, Mahometan and Jewish Calendars for the Year, Length of the Seasons, Beginning and Ending of University and Law Terms; the Calendar, showing the Times of the Sun Rising and Setting in London, Edinburgh, and Dublin on Every Day in the Year; the Times of the Moon Rising and Setting on Every Day near London, Times of High Water, &c.; Astronomic Phenomena, applicable to each Month, Eclipses, &c.; with Twelve large Diagrams illustrating the appearance of the Heavens in the Evening of Every Month in the Year; Recently-discovered Planets; Meteorological Instruments and their Uses; Government and Law Offices and Officers; Historical Memoranda of the Paper Duty, &c. The Astronomical Department by J. GLAISHER, Esq., F.R.S., of the Royal Observatory, Greenwich.—Published at the Offices of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS, Milford House, and 198, Strand.

**HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Mlle. PICCOLOMINI** will give TWO REPRESENTATIONS at Reduced Prices—THURSDAY, the 23rd, and SATURDAY, OCT. 25th. On Thursday, Oct. 23rd, DON PASQUALE and Last Scene of First Act of LA FIGLIA DEL REGGIMENTO, comprising the celebrated "Conviene Partir." On Saturday, Oct. 25th, LA TRAVIATA. No further representation can be given, her Paris engagement rendering her departure imperative. Prices—Pit Stalls, 10s. 6d.; Boxes to accommodate four persons, Grand Tier, One Pair, and Pit Tier, Two Guineas; Two Pair, One Guinea; Three Pair, 15s.; Pit, 3s. 6d.; Gallery Stalls, 3s. 6d.; and Gallery, 2s. The Box-office will be opened on Monday, Oct. 20.

**ITALIAN OPERA at DRURY-LANE THEATRE.**—Grif, Gessier, Lorini, Amadei, Mario, Boveri, Fornas, M. Gassier, and other eminent artists will perform in Italian Operas at Drury-Lane Theatre, at Play-house Prices, on Monday, October 27th, Tuesday, Oct. 28th, and four following nights. Tickets, Stalls, and Boxes at the Box-office, and at Cramer, Beale, and Co's, 201, Regent-street.

**THEATRE ROYAL, HAYMARKET.—MONDAY,** October 20, and During the Week, will be revived O'Keefe's Comedy of WILD OATS, in which Mr. MURDOCH will make his first appearance in this Country in the character of Rover; after which the Spanish Dancers, Perea Nena and her company, in THE STAR OF ANDALUSIA; with, for Six Nights only, THE LITTLE TREASURE, in which Miss Blanche Fane will appear; concluding with the GALICIAN FETE.

**ROYAL PRINCESS' THEATRE.—MONDAY** and During the Week, Shakespeare's Play of A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM. To conclude with PIZARRO. Mendelssohn's celebrated Overture to "A Midsummer Night's Dream" will commence precisely at Seven o'clock.

**THEATRE ROYAL, ADELPHI.—Positively the LAST** NIGHTS but Six of those popular favourites Mr. and Mrs. BARNES WILLIAMS, the original Irish Boy and Yankee Gal, previous to their departure to the provinces.—Monday, and during the Week, IRELAND AS IT IS, DOMESTIC ECONOMY, and LUCIFER MATCHES, in which Mr. and Mrs. Barnes Williams will perform. To conclude with OUR GAL; with the song "My Mary Anne." Mr. Leigh Murray will appear as soon as the present attractive novelties will permit.

**ASTLEY'S ROYAL AMPHITHEATRE.—Lessee and** Manager, Mr. WILLIAM COOKE.—On MONDAY Evening (67th night), Shakespeare's tragedy of RICHARD the THIRD. Richard, Mr. J. Holloway. Mr. William Cooke's beautiful Equestrian Illustrations—a success unprecedented. After which the attractive Scenes in The Circle, combining skill, grace, and elegance. To conclude with a melange of amusements.

**GREAT NATIONAL STANDARD THEATRE.**—Shoreditch.—Mr. JAMES ANDERSON and Miss ELSWORTHY every Evening. The engagement of the celebrated Mr. and Mrs. KEELEY for one week only, who will make their first appearance on MONDAY, OCTOBER 27th. The New Play of CLOUDS and SUNSHINE most triumphant. It will be repeated every Evening, with all its magnificent costumes, scenery, and appointments. The TWIN BROTHERS by Mr. James Anderson.

**A PUBLIC DINNER to HERBERT INGRAM, Esq., M.P.,** will be given in the CORN EXCHANGE, BOSTON, at Four in the afternoon, on THURSDAY, the 23rd OCTOBER. Application for Tickets (price 3s. 6d.) to be made to the following Gentlemen, on or before Saturday, the 18th inst. —  
 Mr. T. S. Cooke, High-street. Mr. William Richardson, West-street.  
 Mr. John Noble, Jun., Market-place. Mr. William Wilkinson, Grand Stile.  
 Messrs. Denton, "Guardian" Office. Mr. Richard Jackson, Barge-street.  
 Mr. Thomas Wright, High-street. Mr. Henry Button, Woolpack Inn.  
 And to Mr. George Young, Lord Nelson Inn, Boston.  
 Boston, Oct. 6, 1856. By order of the Committee, THOMAS WRIGHT, Secretary.

## THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

LONDON, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1856.

THE British people do not take sufficient interest in their Indian Empire. They are proud of its extent, its wealth, and its magnificence; but they do not often discuss its affairs or even understand them. If distance lend enchantment to the view of India, distance deprives it of the more engrossing interest which attaches to countries nearer home. It is only when disaster befalls our arms, as in the melancholy Afghan war, that attention is aroused. At such times the heart of the nation is stirred by the magnitude of the danger; but, the danger being met and surmounted by pluck, or by what has often done this country as much good service, *luck*, the national mind relapses into apathy, and thinks more of the last great case of poisoning or of swindling than of the affairs of the most splendid appanage of empire that ever existed in any age of the world. What is barren Russia with its sixty millions of inhabitants, compared with our fertile India and its hundred millions? Yet we are content to leave this great dependency of British power to a management for which the people care little, and of which they know less. It will possibly, therefore, create some surprise amongst us when it is known that England, through the agency of its Indian Government, is at this moment on the verge of war with one of the most celebrated States of the world.

Persia has broken faith with us in the matter of Herat; and war, though not duly declared against the Persian Sovereign at the date of the last letters, has perhaps broken out in the interval. It is possible that the war, if it should unfortunately arise, may prove to be a little one; but it is equally possible, and very probable, that it may resolve itself into a great one. At all events, the matter is one of the highest consequence; and it behoves the British people to study it, that they may know whether to support by their approval, and perhaps by their purses, the policy of the Indian Government; or whether they shall bring the steady weight of public opinion to bear against it.

It would occupy the space of a volume if we were to detail all the circumstances which have prepared the way for the existing quarrel with Persia. We must content ourselves, therefore, with a mere outline of the case;—but an outline, we trust, sufficiently well defined and clear to enable our readers to judge for themselves of the gravity of the circumstances, and of the duty that has, in consequence, devolved upon the British and Indian Governments. Herat is a large and celebrated city in Central Asia, midway between the frontier of our Indian Empire and the dominions of the Shah of Persia. The city of Herat possesses a territory of the same name. The territory and city have long been objects of cupidity to the Shahs of Persia; but as the city of Herat is a position that, in a military point of view, is affirmed by all Indian authorities—military and diplomatic—to be the key to our Indian Empire from the West, it becomes an object of vital importance to preserve its independence, or, at all events, to prevent it from falling into the possession of any Power which might use it

as a *point d'appui* against us. The British Government does not want to annex Herat; but for divers cogent reasons it cannot allow the city and territory to be annexed to either of its neighbours;—to Cabul on the one hand, whose ruler, though now a friend, may hereafter become a foe; or to Persia on the other—an effete and moribund empire, a mere puppet in the hands of Russia. During the late war in the Crimea it was natural that Russia, having frontiers abutting on our Indian Empire, should look to the possibility of doing us a mischief in that quarter while we were exerting all our strength against Sebastopol. For that purpose it appears to have intrigued against us at Ispahan and Teheran, and to have instigated the Shah to subject our Envoy, the Hon. C. A. Murray, to a series of annoyances and indignities, which ultimately led Mr. Murray to withdraw from his post. But the cause of dispute in that instance, though about as dignified as that which led to the siege of Troy and the composition of the "Iliad," being somewhat too ridiculous for modern ideas of a *casus belli*, the difficulty blew over. A new and more serious source of ill feeling presented itself in the internecine quarrels of the independent, or quasi-independent, inhabitants of Herat. Contrary to the stipulations of a treaty concluded, in 1853, between Colonel Sheil, representing the Anglo-Indian Government, on the one side, and the Shah of Persia on the other, by which the Shah bound himself never to send any military force against Herat, unless Herat were besieged by foreign enemies, and itself demanded the assistance of Persia, the Shah has dispatched a large force against the city, to aid one pretender to the throne of Herat against another. The Prince that has the support of Persia is repudiated by the inhabitants of Herat, is a tool of Russia and Persia, and would only come into power to be the nominee and the tributary of Persia—and ultimately to make over the city and territory in due form for annexation. This is the object which is sought, and to obtain which, under some powerful influence—whether acting from his own mind, or from that of the diplomatists of Russia, does not greatly signify as far as this country is concerned—the Shah has fitted out an expedition against Herat, and besieged that city for five months. The Prince who has the support of the Anglo-Indian Government has also the support of the great and wily chief of Cabul—our old foe, Dost Mahommed—but now our friend and ally.

Some persons may be inclined to ask why our Government should interfere in such a contest at all? If these persons will study the map of Asia, and realise to their minds the necessity of maintaining the independence of Herat, lest it should fall into the hands of Persia, and, through Persia, of Russia, they will see the vital importance of the point at issue, and admit that the Anglo-Indian Government cannot, consistently with the most ordinary notions of prudence and worldly wisdom, allow such a city to be seized and retained by Persia. As a question of breach of treaty—to say nothing of our own safety and convenience—Persia is so evidently in the wrong, that the British public will support the Government in all reasonable methods of bringing the Shah to reason. Whether it will be necessary to declare war against him remains to be seen. Perhaps the appearance of a British fleet in the Persian Gulf, and the occupation of Bushire and the most important points of the coast, will be sufficient to impress his Majesty with sufficient dread of British power and prowess. We sincerely trust that no further or more serious coercion may be necessary; and that the mischief may be nipped in the bud by a vigorous demonstration. We fell into the Russian war for want of courage and decision at the outset. Let us not again commit a similar mistake. The eyes of a vast population in Asia are upon us, and one false move may be productive of far worse results in those regions than a similarly false move would be in Europe. An ultimatum was, it appears, sent to the Shah in July last, requiring him, whatever might have happened at Herat in the interim, to withdraw his forces from that city and retire within his own frontiers, and, in the event of refusal, to prepare for war with Great Britain. At the same time, that the blow might not lag behind the word, orders were issued for the organisation of a powerful military and naval force to be employed in the Persian Gulf as soon as the monsoon had subsided, and the heats of the Gulf had moderated. Thus the question stands at present. Let us hope that the Shah, who can have no honest objects to serve in Herat, will see the error which he has committed, and yield, before it be too late, to a Power against which he cannot hope to contend, even if he had the strength of the Emperor of Russia to back him.

GENERAL O'DONNELL is no longer a Minister of the ungrateful Queen of Spain. The instrument—we shall not so exaggerate his functions as to call him the author—of the Spanish *coup d'état* has served his purpose. The tool has been used; and being no longer necessary, or even agreeable, has been thrown aside. Narvaez is master of the situation. A sterner, a greater, and a more ruthless and unscrupulous man than O'Donnell has vaulted into power, and O'Donnell must leave Spain—perhaps as an Ambassador, perhaps as Governor of Cuba, and perhaps as a political convict—until another turn of the wheel shall bring Narvaez down, and place some other reckless soldier, or plausible lawyer, or good-looking Cicisbeo in the coveted position of master of Spain; by permission, of course, of the exemplary Isabella. The fate of O'Donnell, though possibly not foreseen by himself, was foreseen elsewhere, and will excite no surprise in England. How it may affect the mind of the supreme ruler of the French—whether with surprise or with displeasure—we shall not attempt to say. Were the contents of his Majesty's autograph letter to the Queen of Spain made public, the world might be enabled to judge whether the minor despotism of O'Donnell or the major despotism of Narvaez be most to the taste of the French Government; but, failing information from that or from any other source, it must be left to the natural progress of events to throw further light upon the international relations of the Cis and the Trans Pyrenean Sovereigns. Low as Spain has fallen under the present Queen, and of the mother who moulded her character, the fortunes of the Spanish people in their ceaseless but unfortunate attempts to found a system of Constitutional Government have not ceased to excite the sympathies of other nations; and the

proceedings of Narvaez in the new career that has opened out before him will be watched with keen interest in other countries than Spain. Under the influence of that hard-handed and hard-headed man of war, Spain will rapidly lose the few liberties she still enjoys; the plague of priestcraft will spread to its old extent, and be what it was, if not worse than it was, at the time when Espartero took it in hand, and the *demortizacion* or sale of Church property was resolved upon. In due course, we suppose, Queen Christina will be permitted or invited to return; and Spain, gagged and fettered, will lie helpless, until deliverance shall come. But where is it to come from? No one knows. There is only one thing to be said, that a people who, with all their faults, are so generous and high-spirited as the Spanish will not for ever submit to a tyranny, even such as an O'Donnell prepared for them, much less to the kind of tyranny to which they are certain to be subjected by a Narvaez.

As the day appointed for the election of the President of the United States draws near, the efforts of the Free-soilers and the Slave power are becoming more and more concentrated upon that State which holds in its hand the fate of the two candidates. In former keenly-contested elections New York has generally been deemed the most important section of the Union, on account of its having the largest number of votes for the President. Four years ago the gross number of votes polled for General Scott (Whig) in New York was 234,000; for Franklin Pierce (Democrat), 262,000; and for Hale, the Anti-Slavery candidate, only 25,000. From this statement it will be seen that had the supporters of Scott and Hale coalesced they would have run Pierce very hard. At present, however, the Democratic party in New York is so thoroughly broken up that none of the papers seem to anticipate anything else than an overwhelming majority for Colonel Fremont.

Such being the state of affairs in New York, public attention is now concentrated upon Pennsylvania, which stands next on the list in the strength of its Presidential vote, the numbers being—New York, 35; Pennsylvania, 27; after which we have Ohio, 23; and Massachusetts, 13. Pennsylvania enjoys the high honour of being the first State, after the adoption of the Federal Constitution, to organise a society for the abolition of slavery. It is worthy of note that Benjamin Franklin was the first President of that society, and that, as such, he affixed his name to the first memorial on the subject of slavery ever presented to the Congress of the United States, a fact which the editors of the "Encyclopædia Americana," with a due regard to Southern interests, thought proper to suppress. With such antecedents, one would naturally expect to find the Quaker State foremost in the present struggle against the aggressive despotism of the Slave power. But Pennsylvania has not always maintained its early character for patriotism and an enlightened regard for the rights of humanity. Many events have occurred of late years which were little calculated to raise very sanguine expectations of the course it would take in the present contest. The fact of Mr. Buchanan, the Democratic candidate, being a native of the State was at first deemed sufficient to give him a majority in Pennsylvania; nor did any of the Fremont organs speak with much confidence of their prospects in that quarter. During the last month or two, however, a great change appears to have come over the minds of the Pennsylvanians; and the general impression now is that Fremont will have a decided majority there. The Abolitionist party, although not in favour of the Republican candidate, has been holding large meetings throughout Pennsylvania, the tendency of which has been to strengthen the hands of Fremont's friends, and to deepen and extend popular hatred against the men who have used the power and influence of the Federal Government to carry out the dangerous projects of the Southern aristocracy. But the most powerful agency which has been at work in Pennsylvania, as in most of the other Free States, has been the publication of the horrid outrages perpetrated on the Northern emigrants to Kansas. A number of the Free Settlers in the new territory were from the neighbourhood of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, and the news of the barbarous treatment to which those pioneers of industry and freedom have been subjected by the Border Ruffians has caused a universal feeling of indignation against the present cowardly and cruel Government, and the party supporting it, with which Mr. Buchanan has so thoroughly identified himself. When the votes of New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio have been secured for Fremont, the election will be almost as good as won, there being very little doubt as to how the lesser Free States will go. The election takes place on the 4th of November—next Tuesday fortnight. The first intelligence regarding it will reach Liverpool in about a month from the present; and we only echo the sentiment which must animate every lover of freedom in saying that no news from the other side of the Atlantic has ever been looked for with more anxiety than that which will announce the decision as to whether Slavery or Freedom has been victorious.

## THE COURT.

The Queen and the Prince Consort arrived at Windsor Castle at seven o'clock on Thursday evening from Scotland. Her Majesty left Balmoral at eight o'clock on Wednesday morning, and posting by Ballater and Abonye to Banchory there took the railway, by which the Royal party travelled via Aberdeen, Stonehaven, Forfar, Perth, and Stirling to Edinburgh, arriving in the Scottish capital at a quarter past six, punctually to the time appointed. Passing the night at Holyrood Palace, on Thursday the journey was resumed at an early hour, her Majesty travelling, as last year, over the North-Eastern Railway to York, and thence by the Great Northern to London. Instead of leaving the railway at King's-cross station, as heretofore, the Royal party passed on to the North London line, and thence by the junction railway over the Thames to the branch line of the London and South-Western Company, over which the Queen travelled to Windsor. The journey throughout was admirably performed, under the exclusive direction of Mr. Seymour Clark, of the Great Northern Railway, who received, through Colonel Phipps, the thanks of her Majesty and the Prince Consort for his attention to the Royal convenience.

Prince Alfred and the other members of the Royal family who had accompanied the Court to Scotland returned with their Royal parents. The Prince of Wales, who came from Osborne to Windsor on Wednesday, was present at the railway station to meet her Majesty.

Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent passed through London on Wednesday, en route from York to her residence, Frogmore, near Windsor. Her Royal Highness was accompanied by her Serene Highness the Princess Amalie of Hohenlohe-Schillingfurst, and was attended by Lady Augusta Bruce and Sir George Couper.

A matrimonial alliance has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Colonel Biddulph, Master of the Queen's Household, and the Hon. Mary Seymour, one of her Majesty's Maids of Honour.



## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

No foolishly fond parents, who, in a moment of irritation, had threatened a spoiled child with castigation, unless he mended his manners, ever softened more rapidly, or sought more eagerly the slightest excuse for seeing penitence, than England and France would seem to have done in the case of the King of Naples. One more ultimatum has been sent to the King, and it is said that its demands are excessively mild, and that any sort of concession will satisfy the Powers. Nay, even if he persists in his stubborn obstinacy, the rod is only to be brought into the room—not used; the fleets are to anchor at a distance; and the worst thing that is inflicted upon him is the withdrawal of the Ambassadors—just as the child in question is not to be spoken to until he is good. What considerations may be inducing the two great Governments of Europe to appear to stultify themselves in this manner will perhaps be set forth, in due course, in diplomatists' jargon. Of course it is not that the Russian interference has awed them, though Russian organs do not hesitate to say that the appearance of another party on the stage has changed the action of the piece. Reasons less ridiculous may, however, easily be thought of, and they will occur more readily to a subject of the French Emperor than to an Englishman. But, whether the approaching explosion be hastened by northern intervention or art, the explosion must come, and such revolutionary people make no secret of their regret that the Powers should try to force upon King Ferdinand concessions which may afford an excuse to moderate men for holding back.

The Ministry of the *coup d'état* in Spain has fallen, and the ex-Governor of Cuba is now at the head of affairs. The Queen got rid of her advisers with her usual candour and sincerity, making them believe to the very last moment that she was exceedingly well satisfied, and that they enjoyed her full confidence. At the same time it is difficult to suppose that they were unaware of the impending danger, or that the presence of Narvaez did not assure them that mischief was at hand. So down goes O'Donnell. There are speculations whether the Emperor of the French will approve of the change; and it is even hinted that he may see his way to a Spanish quarrel, which would disengage the attention of France from certain matters connected with the present crisis there. The new dictator has begun characteristically; has already insulted the husband of the King of Spain's sister, and sent him a challenge to a duel. The story is simply scandalous; but we have reason to think that some other circumstances, of which the journals do not speak, are connected with the conduct of Narvaez. The King has, we learn, been getting into worse odour than ever, in consequence of the discovery that he and one of his relatives have been spending a great quantity of family money which was in their hands in trust for the owners. The latter, finding that they had been plundered, placed the matter in legal hands, but the lawyer is said to have been corrupted, and to have let the business slip along until the claim, by Spanish law, was all but extinct. The claimants, awakening to the fact, took summary measures, and have been as summarily sent away from Madrid, with a decorous record in the Court Circular. All this, which will shortly be made public with more detail, is supposed to have been in the mind of Narvaez when he misconducted himself so signally. We cannot exactly parallel the case; but suppose Lord Palmerston, in the House, were to lay a stick across some member of Parliament who had married a sister of Prince Albert, and on next coming to London were to meet the other person in a private house, quarrel with him before some ladies, and then send Lord Cardigan and Sir De Lacy Evans to him, inviting him to come and fight at Burnham Beeches.

A curious piece of news, and commentary, arrived simultaneously from Moscow and Dublin. A Roman Catholic clergyman, who had observed the furious attacks of some of the London papers upon the immoral opera of "La Traviata," about to be performed in Dublin, writes a pathetic letter to Lord Carlisle, begging him to prohibit so disgraceful a performance. The L. L. replies through his secretary that he cannot interfere; and, moreover, that the opera is not worse than others which are played without objection. The priest reiterates his protest, and reminds Lord Carlisle that the Royal lady whom he represents refused to attend the Opera-house to see this work, or to permit the Princesses to see it. To this home-thrust the amiable Lord Lieutenant has not replied, but the clergyman has certainly put his Lordship in the position of treating the alleged opinion of his Royal mistress as uncalled for and unjustified. But now it is the priest's turn to look foolish, for the Correspondent of the *Times*, in his last letter from Russia, apprises the world that he beheld no less a person than the Pope's Nuncio in a box at the Opera at Moscow, enjoying this very "Traviata." What will the poor clergyman say who has been denouncing the opera as unfit to be witnessed by a decent Christian?

The Conservatives cannot be persuaded by a few clever writers that they are a party. They are walking about with a conviction like that of the man in the German story, that they are dead, and are ready to fall upon and beat everybody who hints at their vitality. The exception to the rule seems to be Major Beresford, the celebrated W. B. of other days, who insists that the party would do very well if they would throw over Lord Derby and Mr. Disraeli, and everybody else who is not sound on the Popish question, and would make an onslaught upon Maynooth. But the proposition does not appear to have been received with much enthusiasm, nor have we heard of any great number of public meetings for carrying out the plan. The awkward part of the business is that, if the fanatics of the party should unite and reject the only men of intellect among them, they would have to vote in silence, for assuredly the anti-Popish leaders in the House of Commons are folks whose oratory is not to be endured. The spectacle of a dumb faction—dumb, not from sullenness, but from inability to express itself—moving about in gloomy grandeur, would be new and striking, but hardly constitutional, we fear. Another uncomfortable feature in W. B.'s scheme is that he reminds his friends of their victories in old days. But what were these? They set themselves to fight three desperate battles—Emancipation, Reform, Free Trade; and all three are now the laws of the land. The invitation to storm new Redans, for the sake of being driven back with loss, does not seem very acceptable to the Conservatives. They refuse to be either the tools by which clever and ambitious men may attain power, or the dupes by which bigoted and stupid men may disgust their fellow-subjects and render the government of Ireland a difficult task. And they are wise. When Lord Derby and Mr. Disraeli are reduced to be mere speechmakers, and Ireland is so tranquil that it can be ruled by the gentlest Whig that ever sentimentalised, things are going on very well. *Quæta non movere.*

**CHILTERN HILLS AND CENTRAL BUCKS AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.**—The first meeting of this new society was held at Aylesbury on Thursday, Oct. 9th. Upwards of fifty teams started for the ploughing-match, the entries of stock and roots were upwards of four hundred. Most of the leading agriculturists of the centre of the county were amongst the fortunate competitors, as the following list will testify:—Sir H. Verney, Sir A. de Rothschild, Messrs. W. Crook, W. Rose, Cox, J. K. Fowler, T. W. Morris, R. Fowler, Deuchfield, Ridgway, A. Lee, J. Butcher, E. Butcher, J. Hailey, J. Gamble, J. Parrott, &c. The show of stock was very fine.

## METROPOLITAN NEWS.

**THE CITY.—ITS SANITARY CONDITION.**—The annual report of the Medical Officer of Health upon the sanitary condition of the city of London was presented to the Commissioners of Sewers on Tuesday. The total mortality of the year is 2910. This number is 490 (or nearly 70 per cent) less than the average of the last eight years. In fact, the death rate of the whole City has been reduced from a general average of 24 per 1000 of the inhabitants to 22. While the total mortality of the whole City is at the rate of 24 per 1000 of the inhabitants, that of the several subdivisions is from 15 to 30 in the 1000. "In the City of London Union, for example, the mortality has been from 15 to 19 in the 1000, and in that division of the metropolis which forms the eastern part of the City the number of deaths has been from 22 to 28 in the 1000; and, worse still, in one of the most densely-crowded of all the metropolitan sub-districts—namely, the southern part of the West London Union, the mortality has risen to 30 in the 1000." In conclusion, Dr. Letheby makes an earnest appeal in behalf of better drainage for the metropolis.

**THE GENERAL APOTHECARIES' COMPANY.**—A new company has recently been started under the above designation, with the professed objects of procuring the purest drugs and chemicals, as well as that amount of skill and carefulness in the dispensing of them, the want of which amongst general dealers has been of late a subject of such loud and just complaint. We recently inspected the works and laboratories of the company in Berners-street, which are very complete, and admirably arranged. The facilities the latter will afford to the public for the analysis of various articles of consumption will be of extreme value. When we visited the laboratory we had an opportunity of seeing an illustration of the colour test in the detection of strychnine; and also learned a very curious fact which is of importance in connection with the recent trial of Palmer. It will be recollected that the chemical analysis of Dr. Taylor failed to elicit evidence of the presence of strychnine, and by this failure the verdict was considerably imperilled. The action of the tartarised antimony previously administered to the murdered man was supposed in some way or other to have affected the result; but the *rationalité* of its operation was not attempted to be explained. It now appears that the presence of tartaric acid in any form prevents the action of strychnine in the colour test; and this fact being established at once explains away all that before was a mystery in this notorious case. We are yet very far behindhand in chemical knowledge; and any institution which tends to promote it is deserving of encouragement.

**GROCERS' COMMERCIAL ASSOCIATION.**—A meeting consisting principally of the grocers residing in the northern and north-western districts of the metropolis, and convened by this association, was held on Wednesday evening, at the Music Hall, Store-street, Bedford-square, under the presidency of Mr. John Henderson. The association has recently been formed with the view of correcting the evils existing in the trade, and thereby promoting a more fair and honourable system of dealing, as well as effecting a reduction of duties on the articles in which grocers deal, and watching over all trade regulations and legislative proceedings affecting that branch of commerce. The association is prosecuting the movement with vigour, and holding meetings in various parts of the country. It has in view three distinct classes of objects: the first is to effect the abandonment by retailers of the practice of selling sugars at a loss; the second is to secure a fairer and more uniform system of sampling sugars, tares upon teas, and such changes in the Custom-house regulations and market terms, as from time to time may be found beneficial to the trade; and the third is to accomplish such reductions and simplifications of duty, especially upon the articles of sugar, tea, coffee, cocoa, fruits, and tobacco, as shall benefit the trade and the public, without loss to the revenue. The point to which at present the best energies of the association are mainly directed is that of inducing the trade to abandon the mischievous system of selling sugars at a loss. The folly of persevering in this system was shown in various ways by the speakers, who besides the chairman, were Messrs. Snowdon, Mills, Strugnell, J. Newsome, L. Wray, and R. Moore. The meeting separated after passing a resolution for the formation of a district committee to co-operate with the general body, and expressing its cordial sympathy with the objects of the association.

**THE ROYAL BRITISH BANK.**—An injunction of the Court of Chancery to restrain proceedings in Bankruptcy was issued, on Tuesday, by Vice-Chancellor Sir R. T. Kindersley. The injunction was granted on the application of Mr. Lewis, of the Chancery bar, instructed by Mr. Argles, manager of the firm of Messrs. Chilton and Burton, solicitors to Mr. Harding, the official manager, at Langham-hall, Bury St. Edmunds. It restrains the official assignee of the Court of Bankruptcy, Mr. Lee, and his solicitors, Messrs. Linklater, from in any way prosecuting or interfering in the affairs in which the official manager of the Court of Chancery is acting, and upon the summons issued by the Court of Bankruptcy, calling on Mr. Harding to attend before that Court, and from disturbing him in possession of the estates, effects, and assets of the bank, and also granting an order nisi for the official assignee and others of the Court of Bankruptcy to show cause why they should not be committed for contempt of the Court of Chancery, on their having, as already reported, disturbed him in possession. A bill has already been filed by the official manager against the official assignee, his solicitor, and others. On the same day, at the branch bank in the Regent-circus, about 200 depositors came in and lodged their claims. Tenders have been sent in for the occupation of the various branch premises, and it is expected they will be disposed of at a profit. It has been stated that a loss may arise of from 40,000*l.* to 50,000*l.* by forfeiture of the lease of the Welsh works under bankruptcy, but this cannot occur in Chancery. The balance of cash assets in the hands of the interim manager at the time of his appointment as official manager was 131,000*l.*

**HIGH TIDE AND DAMAGE TO SHIPPING.**—On Wednesday morning, at half-past one o'clock, it blew a gale on the river below bridge, and there was a strong tide running. Four vessels lying at Irving and Cooper's coal-wharf, Wapping, broke from their moorings, and did considerable damage. They drove up the river, breaking adrift, and bringing with them the barges and platform composing the tunnel pier, and a great number of other craft, some laden with valuable merchandise and some empty, and nearly the whole of them drove athwart the *Aberdeen* steamship lying off the Thames Police station. There was a tremendous crush, and the ships and barges were forced on shore. One of the protection piles at the Thames Police causeway was torn down, and a Thames Police galley swamped and nearly destroyed. One of the vessels was sunk, but was subsequently raised, and will have to go into dry dock for extensive repairs. Several barges laden with valuable cargoes were sunk by the violence of the collision with the steamer; and a tug-boat belonging to Mr. Christopher Hinds, lighterman, of Wapping, was totally destroyed, with a cargo of guano valued at sixty guineas. A man was crushed and killed; and a boat containing barrels of beer belonging to Mr. Rice disappeared under water, and has not been recovered.

**ECLIPSE OF THE MOON.**—A clear and tranquil sky on Monday night afforded the inhabitants of London a rare opportunity of witnessing an almost total eclipse of the moon. The hour at which the phenomenon occurred, and the position of the lunar satellite in the heavens at the time, were also unusually propitious. The spectacle was accordingly watched with great interest by crowds of persons who assembled on the various bridges and other points from which an unimpeded view of the sky could be obtained. The eclipse began at 9h. 21m., shortly after which time the passage of the penumbra, preceding the line of total obscuration, across the moon's disc was visible with singular distinctness even to the naked eye. Afterwards the planet plunged deeper into the shadow of the earth, until, at 10h. 54m., the point of greatest immersion was reached, and the moon almost totally disappeared, scarcely more than a hundredth part of its surface remaining beyond the circle of obscuration. The shadow then gradually passed off, having entered at the east limb of the planet, and vanishing at the western, at 15 deg. 50 min. from the vertex. At twenty-seven minute past midnight the eclipse was at an end.

**FELICE ORSINI IN BRIGHTON.**—On Tuesday this Italian exile, rendered so famous for his escape from the Austrian dungeon of Mantua, lectured at the Royal Pavilion, Brighton, to a large and influential auditory—the Mayor presiding—"On the Austrian and Papal Tyranny." After giving an historical sketch of his country, of the war of 1848, and the flight of the Pope and the Duke of Tuscany, and of the fall of the flower of Italian youth at Rome, he said that the existence of the Papacy in Italy was an anomaly and an impossibility, without foreign support, and unlike the condition of any other power. The lecturer proceeded to speak in most touching terms of the cruelty and tyranny practised under Austrian rule—of the prisons being too small to hold the accumulation of prisoners; and, amongst numerous examples, he instanced particularly the case of a schoolmaster, who had just come out of a house where he had been giving lessons, and who had only a light cane in his hand, but who was arrested and hung. The lecturer proceeded to enlarge upon the unjust and inhuman nature of the Austrian tribunals for the trial of political offences. In all the Italian States there existed two authorities that clashed, and which sought each to interfere with and take cognisance of political offences. At Milan, at Naples, at Parma, at Modena, we have the military and civil power. At Rome, instead of this, there were only the military and ecclesiastical authorities, as the civil authorities had no power. The first, or military, authority exercised its power by summary and military means, and the moment any revolution was attempted, so that there was a ferment in any city, a special military auditor was dispatched thither—generally Mr. Straus, residing at Mantua—and in three or four days death was decreed to many individuals, and the galleys for many others. Having entered into further details on this head, the lecturer referred to the public opinion of the inhabitants of Lombardy, and pointed out how crying an injustice it was that Italy should be the slave of a nation so intellectually inferior—should be beaten like dogs by Austria, and exposed to every description of cruelty and insult. The lecturer was listened to with profound attention, and elicited great applause.

The directors of the Glasgow Athenæum have made arrangements with Mr. Thackeray to deliver a course of lectures in November next.

## EPITOME OF NEWS—FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.

On Saturday last a dinner was given at the Townhall, Altrincham, by the Earl of Stamford and Warrington, to about 150 of his tenantry, in honour of the birthday of the Countess.

It is said that the hereditary Prince of Meiningen, nephew to our late Queen Adelaide, and widower of Princess Charlotte (Albert) of Prussia, is to marry his sister-in-law, Princess Alexandrine. Should this marriage take place, the Prince will accumulate the greatest portion of the wealth of his mother-in-law, the divorced Princess Marianne of the Netherlands.

Richard Ker, Esq., brother to the member for the county Down, is a candidate for the seat vacant by the elevation of the Hon. Mr. Hardinge to the Peerage, consequent on the death of his father. Mr. Ker is at present attached to her Majesty's Legation at St. Petersburg.

General Todleben has arrived at Berlin, on his way to some of the German baths.

The Count de Chambord has returned to Frohsdorf, where he intends spending some time before proceeding to Venice for the winter.

The *Darmstadt Gazette* announces the return from Moscow of the Princes Louis and Alexander of Hesse-Darmstadt. Prince Frederick William of Hesse-Cassel has likewise returned from Russia.

A Paris letter in the *Nord* states that Lords Lyndhurst and Brougham have been received by the Emperor at St. Cloud.

The two new Military Knights of Windsor have been appointed—Quartermaster S. Goddard, in succession to the late Sir John Milley Doyle, K.C.B.; and Major Hopkins to the vacancy caused by the death of Lieut. Fleming.

The marriage of Lady Charlotte Scott, eldest daughter of the late Earl of Eldon, and granddaughter of the learned Lord Chancellor, with her cousin, Mr. R. Surtees Bankes, is to be solemnised towards the close of the month.

M. Winterhalter, who has painted several portraits of the Emperor and Empress of the French, has commenced one of the Imperial Prince.

A party of officers and noblemen—namely, his Excellency Count dell'Alberese, Marquis Sanay de Nerli, Chevalier Lenzone, Lieutenant Silvatici, Commandant de Frescobaldi, and Signor Antinori, members of the Government of the Grand Duke of Tuscany—paid a visit to Woolwich last week.

The presents sent by the Emperor of the French to the Pope on the occasion of the baptism of the Prince Imperial consist of a piece of Gobelin tapestry and a baptismal font. The tapestry represents the Descent of the Cross, copied from the *chef-d'œuvre* of Caravaggio in the Vatican. The font is of Sevres porcelain, ornamented with symbols of the Evangelists.

The Sir Jamsetjee School of Industrial Art, for which the munificent knight subscribed 10,000*l.* nearly four years ago, is just beginning to be got on the way, and classes for the study of geometry, geometric and perspective drawing, and theoretical mechanics are about to be opened immediately.

The Sultan of Morocco has consented to pay the owner of the British barque *Hymen*, which was captured by the Riff pirates in May last, 16,000 dollars.

Lord Palmerston has granted 100*l.* towards the maintenance of Mr. Angus B. Reach.

The Prince and Princess de Joinville arrived in Edinburgh on the 9th inst. from Portinsele, Cumberland.

M. de Bruck, son of the present Minister of Finances at Vienna, has joined the Austrian Embassy at Turin as Attaché.

The valuable collection of pictures in the Vatican in Rome has undergone another change of residence (the fourth since their return from Paris), having been removed to an upper story of the Palace.

It is understood among the friends of the late Miss Mitford that selections from her correspondence are in preparation by the Rev. W. Harness, her executor, and friend for many years.

Ten very valuable paintings, by ancient masters, were stolen last Saturday morning, in a most mysterious manner, from the residence of the Earl of Suffolk, Charlton Park, near Malmesbury.

The French Emperor, in order to give a proof of his solicitude for the working classes at Lyons, has just given an order for silk stuffs, of Lyons manufacture, to the value of 100,000 francs.

The Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University has given notice that Mr. Hope's entomological collection will be open to the public daily during the present term, Sundays excepted.

The *Official Gazette* of Milan says the Emperor of Austria will not visit that city until January.

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, attended by the Hon. Mr. Cavendish (Groom in Waiting to the Queen), and his tutor, Mr. Gibbs, embarked on Tuesday from the Southampton Docks on board the *Fairy*, for Osborne, on return from visiting various towns and localities in the west of England.

The Emperor gave a private audience, on Sunday last, at St. Cloud, to General Khéreddine, charged by the Bey of Tunis to present to the Emperor a cradle for the Prince Imperial.

Their Royal Highnesses the Duchess of Cambridge and the Princess Mary, attended by Baron Knesbeck and Lady Geraldine Somerset, arrived in town on Saturday afternoon, from the Duchess's château near Frankfort, and are now at Cambridge Cottage, Kew.

The Czar arrived at Zarskoelselo on the 6th inst. His Majesty was to arrive at the railway station of the Winter Palace on the 8th, and make his solemn entry into St. Petersburg on the 14th. The grand ball to be given by the nobility and commercial classes was to take place on the 15th.

The Duchess of Inverness has left town for Brighton, where her Grace is occupying apartments at the Bedford Hotel.

A letter from Berlin states that on the 1st of next month Prince Frederick William, son of the Prince of Prussia, will assume the command of the 11th Infantry in garrison at Breslau. At about the middle of December he will leave for Coblenz, and afterwards for England.

A matrimonial alliance is arranged between the Hon. William Hobart, son of the Earl of Buckinghamshire, and Miss Ramsay, daughter of the late Sir William Ramsay, Bart., and niece to Lord Panmure.

Viscount and Viscountess Palmerston, in company with the Vicar, paid a long visit to the Girls' National and Infant Schools at Romsey last week, and expressed themselves highly pleased at the intelligence and order of the children.

*Le Nord* says that the Grand Duke of Tuscany "complains of the crowd of English tourists who invade his State, and who put themselves in communication with the revolutionary chiefs, thereby encouraging agitation."

Lord John Russell left Turin for Genoa on the 5th inst. He intended to proceed with his family from there to Florence.

M. Bravo Murillo, the ex-Spanish Minister, who has been some time in exile in France, has left Paris to return to Spain.

The Infanta Dona Maria Anna, sister of the King of Portugal, has been astonishing the matrons of Lisbon by riding through the city *à la Inglesa* in company of her father, the late Regent, Dom Ferdinand.

The Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Oxford arrived at the Royal Hotel, Aberdeen, on the 10th inst., on his way to Haddo House.

The King of Greece, the Grand Duke and Duchess of Hesse, the Prince Leopold of Bavaria, and the Prince Royal Louis, arrived in Augsburg on the 7th inst., and all paid their respects to the Empress Dowager of Russia, who left the same day for Ulm.

Prince Napoleon is about to publish a book, illustrated with numerous engravings, giving an account of his recent tour in the north of Europe.

Colonel Eardley Wilmot, R.A., and Mr. Abel, of the Laboratory Department of the Royal Arsenal at Woolwich, have returned from their mission to Silesia, in Western Prussia, undertaken with a view of inspecting the iron foundries of that country.

The Russian Legation has announced to the Swiss Federal Council that the Empress Dowager, widow of the Emperor Nicholas, will shortly arrive in Switzerland by the Lake of Constance, and that her Majesty will pass through the cantons of Tessino and the Grisons on her way to Italy.

Among the passengers on board the *Asia*, which arrived at Liverpool on Monday, was the Right Hon. Robert Lowe, M.P., Vice-President of the Board of Trade.

Lieutenant-Colonel Maude, R.A., has returned to head-quarters, Woolwich, from his attendance at the coronation of the Emperor of Russia.

The difficulties concerning the Sound tolls are definitively arranged, in consequence of the accord between Denmark and England.



## RUSSIAN CORONATION FESTIVITIES.



THE EMPEROR'S FETE TO THE PEOPLE, AT PETROVSKY.—THE IMPERIAL PAVILION, AND GENERAL VIEW OF THE GROUND.

## THE PEOPLE'S FETE.

A CORRESPONDENT has glanced at this vast spectacle, in his letter at Page 800. We subjoin additional details. The popular festival on the plain of Moscow was an attempt to reproduce an entertainment similar to that given to the people at the Coronation of the Emperor Nicholas; and, in fact, had it not taken place in accordance with the ancient usage, the people would have

sugared badly of the reign of Alexander II. The dinner of the Emperor Nicholas terminated brilliantly, but the conclusion of his reign was "an epocha effroyable." Let us hope that, as the dinner of Alexander II. ended in some confusion, his reign, in contrast to that of his predecessor, will proceed and terminate peacefully. There were 672 tables, occupying a space of thirteen versts in circumference. On the night before these tables were covered with the

vivands; on each of them were pedestals of wood, supporting five roasted sheep each. The heads were left intact, with the wool on—their horns gilded or silvered horns. Around were portions of pine-trees erect, like the trees of our Christmas holidays, with not only fruit and confectionery, but fowls, which were better suited to the stomach of a nation than the painted, sugared, trifler of Christmas Eve, in England or Germany.

Several regiments of Cossacks guarded these stores of eatables until the moment of distribution. Between the principal tables were columns of fountains, from which were ready to flow the pungent vodka, or brandy, and beer, and (as it was said) even some wine of the Crimea. In the vicinity of these tables were Maypoles, grassed, and crowded with tempting prizes; whirligigs of every description—some of so vast an orbit as to excite astonishment in the spectator, and

groundless terror to those who adventured in them for the first time; and, above all, the so-called Russian mountains, the well-known "Montagnes Russes," which used to delight the English at Paris for some years after 1814—a car being launched from the top of an inclined plane, and conferring on the nervous system that pleasing titillation which arises from rapid motion. In winter this is procured by sliding from an eminence on ice; in summer wheeled cars produce a less easy motion.

The plain which served as a theatre for these pleasures was situated six versts from the Kremlin, between the Palace of Petrovsky and the camp of Khodynskoe. Parallel to the Imperial Theatre were columns reserved for ten thousand guests: in front of them was a vast circular space, surrounded by solid palisades. In the centre of the rotunda was the elegant and picturesque architecture of the pavilion of the Emperor.



SKETCH AT THE PEOPLE'S FETE, MOSCOW.



BALL GIVEN BY THE COUNTESS GRANVILLE, AT MOSCOW.



On the morning of the festival the street of Tver, in Moscow, was crowded with persons of all ranks pouring towards the plain in their Sunday clothing; many had bags prudently provided to carry off some portion of the spoil of the day. An officer of Cossacks told a correspondent, who saw at least a hundred thousand men waiting for the signal of attack, that a large proportion of these persons had passed the night on the spot. Then came masses of carriages, cabs, droskies, and conveyances of every description, from the town, bearing the spectators of the *beau monde*, which were doubly indispensable, both on account of the distance and rain, which began to fall very *mal apropos*;—not a ray of sunshine was there to gild the black crowds of people; the wind whistled through the artificial shrubs; the officers covered their uniforms with mantles, the women drew their shawls and furs around their shoulders; and the petty disasters of the morning became a subject of pleasantry to the courtiers, diplomatists, and journalists in the tribunes. Chamberlains embroidered over with gold had to sport their umbrellas and put on mud-boots; while a constant succession of carriages, spattered to the axle, set down the rest of the company at the Emperor's pavilion. Count Morny arrived in his splendid equipage all besplashed. Lord and Lady Granville arrived in a travelling carriage which was better suited to the weather; his bewigged coachman well protected by oilskin, and his footmen with "umbrellas as large as tents." The rain fell in torrents; and everybody felt for the poor mujiks who had to go through so much before eating inundated mutton and washed fowls.

However, all of a sudden it was seen that, instead of the spectators of the tribune looking at the feast, the mujiks were standing on the tables looking at the Emperor's pavilion! In short, by a sort of legerdemain, the dinner had ended before it began, like the announcement of the new railway in the vaudeville, the passengers of which were to arrive at their destination on the eve of departure from the station.

Several versions of the cause of this rapidity are given, but the most probable seems to be that the Emperor, on account of the rain, had allowed the feast to proceed sooner than was intended, reserving the flowing of the fountains until his arrival.

At length the Emperor himself arrived on horseback at a canter, wearing shako and cloak. The rain seemed to stop; ten thousand people in the tribunes rose; fifty thousand troops presented arms; the bands played the Russian National Hymn, which was drowned by the popular acclamations. Without mounting the tribune, the Emperor rode round the tables, while the Empresses ascended to the pavilion—the Empress Mother half-carried up the steps. The Emperor then returned to the tribune, and, causing one of the crowd to be brought to him, asked him if the dinner was good, and enjoining him to tell the truth, upon which the man answered "that the meat was tainted." "Ah," said the Emperor, "if the day had not been unfavourable I should have judged for myself and dined with you."

After this the fountains were opened; but, as usual, within a couple of minutes, trees, fountains, cup, flags, flew in the air and vanished under the avidity of athletic bibbers. In short the disappearance of the liquors was as rapid as that of the viands and of the coronation medals on a previous day. But the best of the row was after the Emperor went away. The tables, the pavilions, and the tribunes were themselves all destined to become the prey of the populace. One broad-shouldered peasant seized a bench, another shouldered a plank, a dozen tore an awning into shreds and patches. The adventurous mujiks at the pavilion were repelled by the Cossacks politely throwing their hats into the crowd, amid jeers and murmurs; and another mujik, obstreperous with the wine or brandy he had drunk, was tossed bodily by the Cossacks on the sea of heads below.

As for the return to Moscow of these fifteen thousand carriages, it was like the retreat of 1812, in disorderly confusion. What maddening mud! what splintered poles! what panels stove in! what emittid lynch-pins.

#### LORD AND LADY GRANVILLE'S BALL AT MOSCOW.

The English Ambassador and Lady Granville's State ball, which was given on the night of the 22nd ult., was very brilliant and very successful. The Emperor and Empress, the Grand Dukes Constantine and Michael, the Grand Duchesses Constantine and Marie, honoured the party by their presence; and all the Foreign Ambassadors and Ministers and their suites, as well as the principal Russian nobility, and every person of note in Moscow, attended this splendid reunion, which appropriately terminated the princely hospitalities that have distinguished the English Ambassador's residence in that city. The outside of the Graziani Palace was illuminated with coloured lamps, which cast a bright glow on a crowd of faces in the streets, all silent and quiet, as a Russian crowd ever is. The Emperor and Empress arrived at a quarter-past ten, and were met at the door by Lord Granville, who showed them up into the ball-room, where a small recess was fitted up for their Majesties, but they did not avail themselves much of it, as they seemed to prefer sitting down quietly among the rest of the people, and the Emperor danced incessantly waltzes, polkas, and quadrilles.

The ball-room, which had been extemporised for the occasion, caused considerable surprise among the Muscovites, familiar as they are with brilliant shows. The Special Correspondent of the *Times*, in describing this brilliant fête, says:—

In order to provide dancing room for such a large assemblage, a very spacious and handsome apartment had been erected, with infinite pains and trouble, projecting over the garden at the rear of the house, on a level with the drawing-room floor, into which it opened. The top and sides were formed by a monster tent or marquise, striped white and red, with alcoves, one at one side for the orchestra, another opposite for those who might desire to retire from the dance. At the further extremity were the communications with the supper-rooms. The entrance to this temporary ball-room was effected by means of a corridor formed of canvas, which led from the hall through the garden, and so up by a staircase to a level with the first floor. This passage, which wound through the natural trees of the garden, had two branches, in one of which was a comfortable little buffet, well provided with good wine, and lighted with variegated lamps, which had a very pretty effect. The floor of the ball-room, which was covered with parquet, and very well laid, was elastic, and admirably suited for dancing. The name of Benjamin Edgington has for more than a quarter of a century been associated with the most imposing fêtes which have taken place in Great Britain. For a very long time past no scion of a noble house has been ushered into a manhood without calling in Mr. Edgington's assistance to provide a monster pavilion for dispensing the family hospitalities; but it has remained for the coronation of the Emperor Alexander of all the Russias to give to this famous contractor the widest renown as a British tradesman.

**GRAVE OF THE RUSSIAN ADMIRALS.**—A letter from Sebastopol, in a Petersburg journal, has the following:—"We had the melancholy satisfaction this day of witnessing the consecration of the grave of admirals. A simple slab of Inkerman stone, and cross of the same material, adorned with a chaplet of dahlias, rests on the spot where repose the bodies of the brave. The space destined before the war for the new church of St. Vladimir has been levelled, paved, and surrounded with black columns, connected by chains, and selected as the burying-place. The inscription on the slab runs thus:—"Here repose Admiral Lazareff, who died in 1851; Vice-Admiral Kornileff, Rear-Admiral Istomine, and Admiral Nachimoff." The consecration commenced by a procession of clergy and officers, who advanced from the Admiralty Cathedral. Many inhabitants were present. On reaching the tomb funeral service was performed, then benediction with holy water, and immortal honour and glory proclaimed for the deceased heroes. Men of the faithful Black Sea fleet were present, and knew how to honour the solemnity the heroes of which had often led them to battle."

**THE FRENCH REPLY TO THE RUSSIAN NOTE.**—A letter from Berlin, of the 10th, in the *German Journal* of Frankfurt, says:—"Count Walewski, Minister of Foreign Affairs of France, has sent a circular to the French diplomatic agents at foreign Courts, in answer to that of Russia of September 2nd. According to what we have heard of this new document, the French Government repels the reproaches of Prince Gortschakoff, and adduces arguments to prove that it is erroneously stated that the conduct of France and England in the Neapolitan affair has been represented as contrary to existing treaties, and to the public rights of Europe."

**RICH DIGGINGS.**—A newly-discovered gold field at the Rocky River, about 240 miles beyond Maitland, in this colony, is calling forth the most strenuous exertions of the searchers for hidden treasure. I have before me a letter of very recent date from New England, in which the writer says:—"There are upwards of 2000 people here, who have quite a little town of tents. Some of the diggers are making 100*l.* a week each, and employ labourers at 4*l.* and 5*l.* a week each. The rush to the new diggings has seriously inconvenienced the squatters, whose workmen unceremoniously leave them, for what they deem more remunerative employ."—*Letter from Sydney.*

#### TOWN AND TABLE TALK ON LITERATURE, ART, &c.

A new sort of theft has just been put in practice, and, we fear, in this instance, with complete success. The ablest of our light-fingered gentry have forsaken jewels, plate-chests, silver forks, and gold watches for Raphaels, Rembrandts, Titians, and Tintoretts. At Charlton, near Malmesbury, in Wiltshire, the seat of the Earl of Suffolk, is the finest example of Leonardo da Vinci's art to be found in the three kingdoms, "La Vierge aux Rochers." Messrs. Christie and Manson would secure (after a little private conversation with Mr. Mawson and the Marquis of Hertford) at least £5000 for that one picture. Mr. George Scharf, the able Art Secretary of the forthcoming Manchester Exhibition would carry it to Manchester barefooted through all the counties that lie between Wiltshire and Lancashire: so perfect a knight errant is our clever Art Secretary in protecting virgins upon canvas. Well, this has not been stolen. The joint discovery of Sir Charles Eastlake and Dr. Waagen is still at Lord Suffolk's; but other pictures, and those of importance, have been filched and Jonathan-Wilded away from Charlton. Read this advertisement, and tremble for your Titians and Turners, all you collectors who are fortunate enough to possess even one example of either master:—

Stolen, on the night of Friday, the 10th instant, from Charlton Park, Wiltshire, the residence of the Earl of Suffolk, the following pictures, without frames:—Virgin and Child, by Leonardo da Vinci; a Landscape, by Gaspar Poussin; a ditto, by ditto; Virgin and Child, by Procaccini; Le Raboteur, by Annibal Caracci; Head of our Saviour, by Guido; the Nativity, by ditto; Sea Piece, by Vandervelde; Interior of a Dutch Town, by Van der Heyden; Tivoli, by Poussin. Picture-dealers, pawnbrokers, and others are requested to detain any person offering the above for sale or pledge, and give immediate information to Inspector Wither, Detective Police, Scotland-yard, London. Metropolitan Police-office, Oct. 11, 1856.

Our early collectors—our Earls of Arundel and Clarendon, our Sir Robert Walpoles and Sir Luke Schaub—never could have foreseen a robbery like this. English noblemen lock under Bramahs and Chubbs their diamond brooches and shirt-studs, their silver teaspoons and their silver fish-slice, transmit their parchments to their bankers; but leave their canvases and panels covered by the cunning skill of Michaels in art to the walls of a dining-room and the custody of a garrulous old housekeeper, who is more anxious to see that the hen-roost is all safe than that the pictures are safe within their frames. Many a comfortable housekeeper in England fresh with her shining keys from her comfortable sitting-room (not far removed from the kitchen) would rest content with seeing the frames all right, let the pictures have been Jonathan-Wilded no one knows where.

Artists, dealers—all, indeed, who are interested in art—have little to gossip about this week, this Charlton robbery excepted. All the great dealers and all the great picture auctioneers have been consulted on the subject. Where are the pictures? We recover Mr. Robson: why not recover the Charlton pictures? The pictures, it is said, are already in Holland, and quietly on sale. But who would purchase them? Suppose, for instance, that the little Aldobrandini Raphael was stolen from Lord Garvagh, who would give even an ordinary price for it? No one could show it; it is a world-famous picture, carrying more than its Goldsmiths' Hall mark about it. Or suppose that the Duke of Wellington, while on duty in waiting on Majesty, should miss the King-Joseph Correggio from its wall in Apsley House, who that bought the stolen treasure could show a picture of such far-spread reputation? After all, people who do give large prices like to show what they possess; the world is not composed of men like the Marquis of Hertford, who gives three thousand pounds for a picture and leaves it in a Pantechicon packing-case.

Publishers are busy. Mr. Murray, of Albemarle-street, announces a new work by Sir William Napier. Of course it is about a Napier, and is, in short, the life of Sir William's brother, the gallant soldier of Spain and Scinde. In Sir William's hands the "Life of Sir Charles Napier" is sure to prove a work for Mudie—that sole test of excellence with, we fear, too many publishers. The Row, represented by the Longmans, are to give us "this term" a three-volume work by the Marquis of Normanby. The title is attractive—"A Year of Revolution." The Marquis, it appears, while at Paris in 1848, kept a "journal," and this journal we are to see in print. Another noble Lord has been at work for the printers. Lord Lyttelton has been annotating the Four Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles. We have had a "good" Lord Lyttelton and a "bad" Lord Lyttelton. How are we to distinguish the present amiable and well-informed representative of the "good" from the "bad"?

The Manchester Exhibition is advancing famously. Sir Culling Eardley lends his noble Murillos, his Rembrandt, and his Teniers. The building, too, is stealing skyward, and with some improvements happily suggested by the architect himself.

Photography in Mr. Delamotte's hands is all but perfection. We have seen this week some forty views of Oxford produced by his manipulation and taste—such wonders in their way, that Wanley would have added them to his catalogue. He has not only seized the very best points of view of every college, but seems to have caught them in their sunniest aspects, when as yet proctors or pro-proctors were not abroad. Such living reproductions of the finest city in England, rich in every kind of agreeable association, we have never before seen. They are for sale, and not at a dear rate. Why should such choice things be confined to a few rich people?

Mr. Ruskin and Mr. Munro will be in a fever of delight before this month is out. All the good things, all the absurdities, all the trash, all the dotages, all the after-dinner commencements of Turner's pencil will be on view, and are now partly hung up, at the National Gallery. Westminster-hall has said its final say on Turner's will. The nation gets everything actually the work of Turner's hand; the Royal Academy steps in for twenty thousand pounds in hard cash; and the next of kin succeed to all the engravings, plates, remainders, and sweepings—something, it is said, like sixty thousand pounds. The nation's get is a very mixed lot—large specimens of his art in all periods—with such refuse that it would be a real charity to hire the Charlton thieves to take them anywhere out of the way. It is sad to think that Turner's reputation, great as it must always be, will be seriously injured by the insane idolatry of his friends, the purse of Mr. Munro, the pen of Mr. Ruskin, and his own insufferable conceit.

**REPRESENTATION OF LINCOLN.**—Lord Goderich, having been applied to to allow himself to be put in nomination for the representation of the city of Lincoln (in conjunction with Major Sibthorp), at the next general election, has returned the following reply:—"S. Neville-park, Tunbridge Wells, Oct. 2. Dear Sir,—Owing to my absence from England I did not receive your letter of the 22nd of September until last night; and I greatly regret the delay which has thus occurred in my replying to it. I am much flattered by learning that any portion of the electors of your city would be willing to support me if I were to become a candidate at the next election, and I am greatly obliged to you for having thought of me as a fit person to succeed Mr. Sealey in that capacity; but I regret to be obliged to inform you that it would not be possible for me to avail myself of your offer, as my obligations to my present constituents would not allow me to become a candidate for another borough, so long as they are willing to continue to me their support. I beg you to accept my best thanks for having made to me so gratifying a proposal; and I remain, dear Sir, yours truly, GODERICH."

#### ABRIDGMENT OF THE CHURCH SERVICE.\*

The principle of progress has at length penetrated within the walls of the Established Church, and its more enlightened members now fully understand the wisdom and policy of adapting their institutions to the spirit of the age. Liturgical reform is earnestly advocated by considerable numbers of the clergy, and the movement has received episcopal sanction. Of course there is no desire to shake the main pillars of the venerable fabric; on the contrary, the object is to impart strength by renovation. The Rev. A. Oxenden, Proctor for the diocese of Canterbury, has shown that the existing Service of the Church has expanded into its present magnitude by sundry accretions, of which he gives the following account:—

The first Liturgy of Edward VI. commenced with the Lord's Prayer, and ended with the third Collect for Grace. In 1552 Cranmer, availing himself of the advice of some learned foreigners, made the following important additions:—The Opening Sentences, the Exhortation, the Confession, and the Absolution; also the Litany was ordered to be used in the Sunday Service, and the Decalogue was introduced into the Communion Service. In the first year of Queen Elizabeth the Prayers for the Queen and the Clergy were added. But it was not till the last review, several years later, that the further addition was made of the "Prayer for all Sorts and Conditions of Men," and also of the "General Thanksgiving," supposed to have been composed by Bishops Sanderson and Gunning. Thus we see that from time to time the bulk of the Morning Service has gradually, and almost imperceptibly, increased, until it has attained its present dimensions.

In Matthew, vi. 7., our Lord and Saviour gives this admonition to his disciples—"But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions as the heathen do, for they think they shall be heard for their much speaking." George the Third complained that the Lord's Prayer was pronounced three times in the Morning Service, and considered that these repetitions detracted from its solemnity and impressiveness. In Mr. Hildyard's plan of liturgical reform this is to be avoided; and he advises that the "Collect for the day be only used once, and that when the Epistle and Gospel are read with it in the Communion Service." He proposes to omit the "Gloria Patri," and advises the prayer for the Parliament be only introduced into the Afternoon or Evening Service. He recommends that only one creed be rehearsed at each service, and that the Anathemas be confined to Trinity Sunday. He would reduce the verses in the Psalter, and revise the Table of Sunday Lessons, leaving out such portions as contain catalogues of names, and the Litany when the Lord's Supper is administered. As an argument in favour of abridging the Service it is observed that, where the reader and preacher are the same person, the clergyman is to some degree exhausted in the physical power of voice before he comes to the sermon; and this union of duty prevails in nine-tenths of the country churches. To those who meet this argument by urging the assistance of a curate, it is replied that, from statistics published in 1853, there are 4882 benefices under £200 per annum, and that the average value of each is not £140 a year; out of such moderate receipts, barely sufficient to maintain a clergyman in that decent respectability to which he is justly entitled by his position, there is no margin of funds to reward the services of a curate. Moreover, in rural districts, it would be often impracticable to provide a curate with a suitable residence. One of Mr. Hildyard's recommendations is a single sermon on each sabbath. Under any view it must be admitted that a system well suited to large cities may not be adapted to small villages. It would be easy to name districts in the metropolis where the reader and preacher are always different persons, and several where the morning and evening sermons are delivered by different clergymen. However, for overwork and underpay one equitable remedy is obvious; it is the more equal division of ecclesiastical revenues, instead of the present lottery of blanks and prizes; but into this question Mr. Hildyard does not enter, for he distinctly says, "what is now asked for is simply abridgment, with power from authority to omit, or vary, occasionally, in public delivery, certain portions of the Liturgy—a thing which is confessedly now frequently done without authority."

One important remark remains to be considered. A largely-increased amount of labour has been thrown on the clergy since the Sunday-school system was established—a system unknown when the Church Services were established. This teaching takes place in many districts twice on the Sabbath, and of itself doubles the duty of the minister; it is a *videlicet* plea for shortening the Church Service. Mr. Hildyard suggests "whether it might not be advisable to retain the bulk of the children (say all under ten years of age) in the school-room during the time of Morning Service, and there let them be instructed and read to by the more experienced teachers, out of the many excellent and interesting books supplied by our societies, and which they have now such scanty opportunities of hearing."

Mr. Hildyard's pamphlet only reached us when it had passed into the fourth edition, or it would have received an earlier notice. The eagerness with which it has been read and its extended sale, are the best proofs of its merits; and we can commend it for its dispassionate spirit and religious tone.

\* "Further Arguments in favour of the Abridgment of the Morning Service." By the Rev. James Hildyard, B.D., Groombridge.

**GRAND EXHIBITION OF WORKS OF ART, TOWNHALL, HANLEY.**—This Exhibition was inaugurated last August, and closed on Tuesday last, and has been visited by upwards of 20,000 persons. It consisted of works of art from the private collections of her Majesty and the Museum of Practical Art, Marlborough House; as also about fifty valuable water-colour drawings, from the collection of Mr. J. L. Ricardo, M.P. Mr. J. A. Wise, M.P., contributed some early specimens of pottery; and Mr. Smith Child, M.P., some valuable silver-gilt articles of exquisite beauty—specimens of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Several local artists sent some fine specimens of oil paintings and water-colour drawings; and local manufacturers some valuable works of art from their show-rooms, including a valuable collection from Mr. Alderman Copeland. The collection from Marlborough House consisted of a case of valuable curiosities of art-manufacture, valued at about 30,000*l.*, including drawings of Russian antiquities, published by command of the Emperor. We may mention one or two objects of interest in consequence of their novel and beautiful design. "A Jug of all Nations," of exquisite workmanship, and consisting of Parian, was exhibited by Mr. Henry Baggeley, a local artist; the jug, which is estimated to contain six quarts, consists of the shield and armorial bearings of nineteen different countries, arranged in three tiers, the top one containing in the centre the crown and Royal arms of Great Britain, flanked by those of France and Belgium; and in the second and third tiers those of other countries. Mr. Baggeley also exhibited a "Shield of all Nations" in black jasper, consisting of eighteen shields arranged in a circle, and a centrepiece consisting of the arms of Great Britain. On Tuesday last a public breakfast was given in the Townhall, and a conversation in the evening. At the breakfast an elaborately-chased silver salver, with an address, and the sum of 430*l.*, were presented by Mr. Francis Wedgwood, on behalf of the committee, to Mr. John Ridgway, in recognition of the valuable services rendered by him during the last half-century to the townships of Hanley and Shelton and the districts of the Staffordshire Potteries. Mr. Ridgway has generously appropriated the gift by founding four scholarships of 50*l.* each for the Hanley School of Art, presenting the remaining 230*l.* to the building fund of the British School. After the presentation a vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Ridgway, as also to the committee and subscribers to the Peel Memorial Fund for an investment of 50*l.* for the founding of one scholarship for the same purpose; and it is resolved that the scholarships shall be designated the Ridgway and Peel Scholarships.

**LOCHABER AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.**—The first annual show, since the re-formation of this society, took place at Fortwilliam, on the 8th instant, when several prizes were awarded for cattle, sheep, horses, and pigs. By the kind permission of James McGregor, Esq., banker, Fortwilliam, the show was held in a field near Inverloch Castle. The show of stock was very good; but it was to be regretted that the tenantry of the district allowed to compete for the prizes distributed by this society did not all take advantage of this show, as the directors had made liberal arrangements and were deserving of being encouraged. We may mention that the rich district of Appin did not send one single head of cattle. Every praise is due to the secretary, Mr. Bett, for his indefatigable attention to the affairs of this society. The sheep of Mr. Alexander, of Inversanda, were greatly admired and deservedly carried off the first prize. In the evening the members and their friends dined together at the Caledonian Hotel; A. McLenn, Esq., of Ardgour, took the chair, and was supported by Lord Abinger, James McGregor, Esq.; Miles Lockhart, Esq.; and Dr. Rae, the celebrated Arctic traveller.

**RETURN OF THE BRITISH SPECIAL MISSION FROM RUSSIA.**—Her Majesty's ship *St. Jean d'Acre*, 101, with Lord and Lady Granville and the other members of the British mission to the coronation at Moscow on board, arrived at Kiel on the 8th inst., just in time for the distinguished party to catch the last train to Altona, whence they drove into Hamburg, and descended at the Hôtel de l'Europe about nine o'clock in the evening. Here the party broke up—for the Earl and Countess Granville proceeded immediately by the night train to Berlin, en route for Carlsbad, in Bohemia; whilst Sir Robert and Lady Peel set out on the following morning by way of Belgium and the Rhine to England.



## MUSIC.

MUSIC, after its autumnal *relâche* in the metropolis, is about to resume its course with an activity unprecedented at this time of the year. In the course of next week there are to be operatic performances by the great stars of the Italian stage. Piccolomini is to begin a round of her most favourite characters at Her Majesty's Theatre; and at Drury Lane there is to be a regular, but short, Italian opera season, supported by a very strong company, including Grisi, Mario, Bosio, Formès, M. and Madame Gassier, with others of lesser note. These performances are to be at "playhouse prices," and can scarcely fail to be highly attractive. The "Concerts for the People" (of which we have already spoken) are being carried on at St. Martin's Hall, and will take place for the future on Saturday evenings. The changes both of place and time are judicious; Saturday is certainly the most convenient time for the classes for whose benefit these concerts are designed; and so spacious a locality will admit of assemblages sufficiently numerous to furnish the means of getting up entertainments at once good and cheap; the union of these two requisites being the great difficulty attending undertakings of this nature.

THE "CONCERTORES SOCIETY" commenced its season on Thursday evening, the 9th instant, at Gresham College. Mr. M'Murdie, Mus. Bac., Oxon, was the president of the night; and the vice-president was Mr. Edward Taylor, the Gresham Professor of Music. Among the members present were Messrs. Handel Gear, Barnby, James Coward, C. Spencer, Martin, J. T. Cooper, Herring, &c. It is the custom at the meetings of the society to perform compositions of the president alternately with those of the old masters; and, we believe, it is expected that one at least of the President's compositions shall be entirely new. On this occasion Mr. M'Murdie produced a "Benedictus," a three-part canon, and Cowley's "Ode to Light," a glee for five voices—both of which were performed for the first time, and received with the warmest approbation. His other pieces were "Oh, let us quaff," glee for three voices, with chorus, from Moore's "Anacreon," and "Ode to Harmony," glee for four voices—two of his most successful efforts. By these specimens of his genius Mr. M'Murdie maintained his high position among the glee-writers of the present day. Among the fine old glees sung in the course of the evening was Webbe's famous "If Love and all the World were young"—one of the purest gems of English vocal harmony.

ITALIAN OPERA AT BATH AND BRISTOL.—Madame Grisi, Madame Gassier, Signor Mario, Signor Lorini, Signor Rovere, M. Gassier, and the other eminent artistes forming Mr. Beale's present troupe of Italian singers, have just concluded a successful engagement in these cities. They are to appear at Exeter and elsewhere next week; and will afterwards return to London, to perform at Drury Lane Theatre on the 27th inst.

## THE THEATRES, &amp;c.

PRINCESS'.—On Wednesday evening last Mr. C. Kean produced at his theatre Shakspeare's fairy drama of a "Midsummer Night's Dream"—a play in every respect as different from its immediate predecessor as it is possible to conceive. The success on this occasion may at once be named as fully equaling any that has accompanied the earlier representations of the works of our greatest poet. In the "Midsummer Night's Dream"—which is almost exclusively a creation of fancy—there is scarcely any scope for that illustrative and historical accuracy, or for the classical research, so peculiarly identified with Mr. Kean's system of management, and with which his name has become almost synonymous. Nevertheless, he has availed himself of the few opportunities afforded by the subject of carrying out his favourite plan. In the opening scene we are presented with ancient Athens, at the culminating period of its magnificence, "as it would have appeared to one of its own inhabitants at a time when it had attained its greatest splendour in literature and art." The scholastic taste of the manager has taken advantage of the opportunity suggested by the specified scene of action to place before the eyes of the spectators, on the rising of the curtain, a restored view of that famous city, standing "in its pride and glory," which excites the spontaneous sympathy, and calls up some of the earliest and deepest impressions, of every educated mind. The consummate grace and perfect proportions of Greek architecture are palpably exhibited. On the hill of the Acropolis stand the far-famed Parthenon, the Erechtheum, and the statue of the tutelary goddess Minerva or Athena: by its side the Theatre of Bacchus, and in advance the Temple of Jupiter Olympus, behind which is the hall of the Museum; and on the right the Temple of Theseus. So solicitous is Mr. Kean of perfect accuracy in every detail, that the very tools and furniture in the workshop of Quince, the carpenter, one of the "hard-handed men of Athens," and the lantern of Starveling, representing the moon, are copied from discoveries at Herculaneum.

The architectural realisations we have here alluded to, together with that portion of the drama which includes *Theseus* and *Hippolyta*, the lovers, and the *Clowns*, can, however, scarcely be considered as more than an appropriate frame for a beautiful picture. The wooing, the hunting-party, and the wedding of the Athenian hero and his Amazonian Queen, with the loves and crosses of *Hermia* and *Helena*, are but of secondary and relative interest, absorbed as the incidents connected with these mortal personages are in the poetical enchantment of Fairyland. The introduction of *Oberon* and *Titania*, with all the supernatural agencies by which they are surrounded, form the chief characteristic, the peculiar charm of the play, and give it an exclusive identity without class or parallel, as the most original and graceful conception which genius has ever embodied.

Mr. Kean had already given evidence in many instances of the comprehensive grasp with which he could embrace the unreal and imaginative, as well as the actual and historical. The dream of *Queen Katharine* in "Henry VIII." the ascent of *Phobus* in "A Winter's Tale," and the apotheosis of *Marquise*, with other similar triumphs which are entirely his own, all tended to prove that the same mind was fully competent to follow Shakspeare to the fabulous regions to which he has soared, and to reflect the wild, fervid, and fantastical overflows of the great author's inventive genius, as exemplified in the "Midsummer Night's Dream."

Nothing can be more exquisite than the manner in which this play is placed upon the stage. The introduction to the haunt of the supernatural beings; the first appearance of *Oberon* and *Titania*, with their attendant trains; the noiseless footsteps of the dance, with the shadowed reflection of every rapid and graceful movement; the moonlight wood, peopled with its innumerable fairy legions, who lull their Queen to sleep upon a bank of flowers; the melodious music composed by Mendelssohn to the words of the author, in a strain and tone of feeling in intimate accordance with the subject; the perpetual change of scene and incident, the shifting diorama, the beams of the rising sun glittering upon the leaves, the gradual dispersion of the mist, with the hosts of fairy beings who are there discovered, light and ethereal as gossamer, grouped around the unconsciously sleeping mortals;—these, and an endless succession of skillfully-blended pictorial, mechanical, and musical effects, bewilder the faculties with the influence of an enchanting vision.

The acting throughout was highly judicious, and every character in perfect keeping—a *vraisemblance* much studied on the French stage, but too often neglected on ours. Mr. Ryder and Miss Murray, as *Theseus* and *Hippolyta*, presented a noble-looking couple. Miss Heath and Miss Bufton, as *Helena* and *Hermia*, were beautiful to gaze upon; the former lady, in particular, played with especial spirit and discretion, while Miss Bufton, formerly a member of the *corps de ballet*, established her claim to rank high as an actress, and will doubtless prove an acquisition to the theatre, not only by her beauty, but by her talent. Mr. Harley, as *Bottom* (the weaver), was, as usual, irresistibly droll and eccentric, producing immense merriment in the comic relief of the play. He was admirably seconded by Mr. F. Matthews, as *Quince* (the carpenter); by Mr. Meadows, as *Snout* (the tinker); and by Mr. Saker, as *Flute* (the bellows-mender). Miss Fanny Ternan (who appeared here for the first time) and Miss Leclercq were lovely and charming as the *Fairy King* and *Queen*; and a very interesting and clever child, Miss Ellen Terry, personified *Puck* with sprightliness and humorous peculiarity. Mendelssohn's music was admirably executed, the leading portions being sustained by the two *Singing Fairies*, Miss Marian Taylor and Miss Honey. The "Midsummer Night's Dream" contains no characters suited to the abilities of Mr. and Mrs. C. Kean; but these two distinguished artists appeared afterwards in the drama of "Pizarro."

Mr. Kean unites untiring perseverance with executive ability, and genius with knowledge. He is thoroughly an artist, and delights in his professional labours. He does not indulge in scenic and decorative magnificence for the mere sake of dazzling by show, or to baffle competition. His purposes are more lofty and intellectual: they aim

at truth, propriety, and instruction. The manner in which he has raised his theatre, and with his theatre the art he so ably illustrates, to their acknowledged point of superiority, is evident by the expressions of admiration uttered by foreign visitors, ever jealous of the dramatic excellence of their respective countries. Germany and France, especially the former, have borne ample testimony to the classical taste and information of Mr. Kean; and give vent to their opinions as if England had never until now possessed a theatre of the highest order. The earlier revivals of Shakspeare at the Princess' included historical illustrations for the first time attempted or witnessed. The present and latest adds another to the group, more imaginative and poetical than its predecessors, and will assuredly excite equal wonder and admiration. England at large is indebted to Mr. Kean for such an exercise of art, tending so powerfully to propagate a taste for all that unites instruction with refinement, and to redeem thousands from gross and unintellectual recreations. At the fall of the curtain Mr. Kean was enthusiastically called for, and passed across the stage to receive the applause and congratulations of one of the most numerous audiences ever assembled within the walls of the Princess.

SADLER'S WELLS.—The renewed revival of "Timon of Athens," after an interval of five years, cannot fail to excite reflection on the steady success manifested by this establishment, and the reason that may have existed for the public patronage. A consistent course of good conduct, and doing not only "the right thing," but the highest thing of which the drama is capable, was the ground of proceeding with the management from the beginning; and the principle has been pursued with earnestness and sincerity. Pictorial illustrations within certain limits has also been the plan of this house, and the present production of Shakspeare's misanthrope rejoices in some excellent scenery painted by Mr. Fenton. The groupings, too, particularly of *Alcibiades*'s soldiers in the last scene, do credit to the stage artist; and, we believe, are the result of Mr. Phelps's poetic feeling, who manages this department himself. Mr. Phelps's *Timon* is not only a careful and steady piece of acting, but an energetic and pathetic display of peculiar characteristics, and is calculated to raise him in estimation as a tragic actor. Mr. Marston as *Apemantus*, is a most remarkable assumption, being a picturesque portrait, most skilfully delineated both in countenance and costume. We must also congratulate Mr. Rayner on his *Alcibiades*, which was well sustained and admirably spoken.

DRURY LANE.—Mrs. Emma Waller having retired, melodrama becomes the order of the night; and M. Eugène Sue's story of "Barbe-Bleue" is laid under requisition for a new piece, entitled "The Adventurer; or, the Fiend's Mountain," in which Mr. Sullivan performs the *Chevalier de Croustillac* and Mr. Verner the *Duke of Monmouth*. Dramas of this kind depend on sword-combats, hair-breadth escapes, and discharges of musketry—all of which may be found in the present; but the interest is not strong, even with all these appliances. The deficiency of merit in the dialogue and of competent talent in the actors are serious drawbacks. We regret that the example of Sadler's Wells cannot be followed at Old Drury.

OLYMPIC.—This theatre has reopened for the season. The pieces on Monday were old favourites—"Still Waters Run Deep" and "The First Night." Mrs. Wigan, having recovered from her severe indisposition, appeared in the character of Mrs. Hector Sternhold, and played it with energy and judgment. A debutante, as *Rose Dufard*, deserves notice. Miss Thirlwall is a clever actress and good singer, and joined in the duet from "Les Huguenots" with such success that she commanded a recall. With merit and novelty such as we have described, the management will doubtless pursue its usual successful career.

MISS P. HORTON'S (MRS. GERMAN REED'S) "POPULAR ILLUSTRATIONS."—Mr. and Mrs. Reed are about to resume their provincial engagements, and will appear next week at Bradford; whence they will continue their tour to Leeds, Manchester, Huddersfield, Chester, and other places. They will afterwards return to London, and recommence their entertainment at the Gallery of Illustration on the 10th November.

## NATIONAL SPORTS.

THE meeting at Bedford produced a fine set-to between Tournament and the indefatigable Gemma di Vergy, but, although it resulted in favour of the former by a neck, "The Ring" were, if anything, rather less fond of him for Epsom, when it was over. The fields were not great, and the was ground very heavy at Richmond, which closed the meetings on the Yorkshire circuit. Ignoramus and Fandango had each a walk over; and Skirmisher—for whom, as he seems to run kindly with no one else, Job Marston wasted to 7 st. 7 lb., a weight he has not ridden for upwards of eleven seasons—pulled cleverly through in the Twos and Threes. There was little to interest on Monday at Newmarket. Gemma di Vergy scored his tenth and Fisherman his twenty-first victory this season. The latter has been running since February 12th, and is a worthy "perpetual-motion" successor to Clothworker, Weathergaze, Defiance, and Saucebox. Lord Clifden gave Lord Glasgow's odd-looking roan colt such a defeat with his filly by Surplice out of Clementina, that it becomes a greater riddle than ever how Aldcroft ever got the former through the Chesterfield Stakes as he did. The luck of the Surplices was also in the ascendant on Tuesday, as the Latitude colt, who is by no means a racing style of animal, and has cut up badly both at Stamford and Doncaster, fairly ran away from everything in the Clearwell. His half brother, Sydney, who got a bad start, was second, and Strawberry (with Wells up again) third; while Bel Esperanza, Gaberlunzie, and Lambourn finished sixth, seventh, and last. Such a straggling race or one so subversive of two-year-old forms has seldom been seen at Newmarket. Vengeance (late the Chicken) at last did "the good thing" for which Palmer was so sedulously keeping him all last season; and, strange to say, Polestar, the animal which brought things to a crisis, was second to his ancient stable companion, out of the twenty-six Cesarewitch starters. Rogerthorpe, 7 st. 9 lb., finished fourth, in spite of the strong pace; and Cotswold, who whipped in, will, no doubt, grace the hunting-field in future. Vengeance was purchased at Palmer's sale by "Mr. Edwards" for 800 guineas; and it is very remarkable that out of his nine race-horses which were sold at Tattersall's on January 14, Vengeance, Gemma di Vergy, Nettle, Comedy, and Rip van Winkle have all been winners. In fact, if he could have weathered the winter, there was material enough in his stable to have put him straight once more. Vengeance, we may add, came after this race to 4 to 1 for the Cambridgeshire, in which she will carry 8 st. 2 lb.

The meetings for the ensuing week comprise Warwick, for whose leading handicap Polestar, notwithstanding her 8 st. 10 lb., will be a favourite; and Kelso on Tuesday and Wednesday. Wednesday will also inaugurate the steeplechase season at Warwick, when four steeplechases and a hurdle race will be run. The Grand Open has nineteen subscribers, from the ancient Bourton, 11 st. 12 lb., down to Dangerous, 8 st. 10 lb. Mr. Topham has secured forty-nine acceptors for his Great Autumn Cup, Rifleman, whom every one believes to be doing very little work, standing in at 8 st. 7 lb. By way of helping the meeting, Mr. Topham has announced a stake for yearlings, to which we trust the racing world will lend no countenance. We have no wish to see the two-year-old winter entries spoiled by these rough public trials, which they infallibly would be, if trainers were induced to show their hand before the former had closed—to say nothing of the absurdity of putting yearlings into work before they were on an average sixteen months old. It is pandering to the worst spirit of racing—one which has long since been abandoned at Newmarket. Preston has been holding a great meeting for the purpose of re-establishing their races on the Moor, which have now been discontinued for some ten years; and, after a discussion nearly as animated as the Doncaster one in 1850, strong resolutions in their favour were carried. Carrol's death has left no blank in the jockey-list, as, although he was still able to ride 6 st., he had been quite superseded by Fordham. When he won the Metropolitan in 1852-53, on Stilton and Hunca-Munca, it seemed as if he would carry all before him. This year he was second for the Suburban and third for the Newmarket Handicap, on Fisherman, but he was latterly weak in the saddle, and his only master, Mr. T. Parr, seldom found it expedient to put him up. As the conduct of the Doncaster harpies has been so bad in some instances this year, Mr. Frail has been endeavouring to bind over the owners of the 1700 beds which are occupied at Shrewsbury at the Autumn Meeting to agree on a more moderate tariff.

Hunters are all the order of the day at Tattersall's now; but among the blood lots next Monday will be found Sir Tatton Sykes, Prince Plausible, The Medway, Byrsa, and, lastly, Antinous, a yearling brother to Andover. Crozier, by Lancroast, out of Crucifix, is announced to be sold "or exchanged for a strong half-bred or three-quarter-bred sire;" and the handsome Lord of the Isles, after a career which included only four victories (£4790) and two defeats, has gone to the stud.

We hear that a £50 aside home-and-home match is likely to be arranged between the celebrated Kelly and Battle, of Norwich; the first bout to come off on November 13th, from Putney to Mortlake.

Couriers have taken the field in earnest. On Tuesday "the proud Salopians" have a meeting at Middle; and the Wiltshire Champion commences. Then come Bridekirk (Cumberland) on Wednesday; Belleek (Fermanagh) on Wednesday and Thursday; North Berwick and Dirleton on Thursday; Weston, near Poulton-le-Fyld, and North Berwick, on Thursday and Friday; and Middleton (Lancashire) on Friday and Saturday. Captain West has recovered some of his truant stags; but we do not hear whether "Isaac Day" is still among the absentees. They turn up at intervals in all kinds of odd places, like the little boys when they fled from Dotheboys Hall. A local paper adds that the Captain has applied to Lord Derby for four couple of his red deer. *Appropos* of fox importation, an Aberdeen correspondent informs us that he and a friend have furnished no less than twenty-two fine cubs to an English hunt this year, at seven shillings a head. The cub-hunting has almost everywhere been most successful, and, now that the hunting season of 1856-57 is about to commence, we may hint to our readers that any sparkling little incidents or general intelligence connected with it will always be most welcome. They should never reach us later than Thursday morning.

## RACING IN WALLACHIA.

(From an Occasional Correspondent.)

BUCHAREST, Oct. 3.

THE long-talked-of races came off last Friday, near *la Chausée*, and gave general satisfaction. The number of spectators could not have been less than four thousand, and not fewer than three hundred carriages were in line along the course; a proof that in due time we may expect this truly English sport to become a national one here. The reigning Prince, Prince Demetre Ghika (head of the police), Mashar Pacha (Sir S. Lakeman), Suleyman Pacha, and Omer Bey, were among the distinguished patrons present, and were received in a tent, which had to be supplied in lieu of a grand stand, continued wet weather having rendered its erection an impossibility. The following is a translation of the printed programme:—

## BUCHAREST AUTUMN RACES.

First Race, entry 20 ducats, for Wallachian post-carts (four-horsed); one from each of the grand routes leading from the capital.

Second Race, entry 20 ducats, for English or German horses.—Black English mare belonging to Captain Karalambi, ridden by the stud groom to Prince Brancovano. Young Harkaway, English chestnut horse belonging to Sir S. Lakeman; H. Webster, jockey. Princess Isabel, bay English mare, belonging to M. J. Balachano; John Watson, jockey.

Third Race, entry 5 ducats, for native post-carts.

Fourth Race, entry 10 ducats, for Arab, Turkish, or native.—Tcherkes (Turkish), owned by Prince Demetre Ghika. Tatar (Turkish), owned by Prince Demetre Ghika. Dimbovitza (Turkish), owned by Sir S. Lakeman. Sultan (Arab), owned by M. E. Bello. An Arabian (bay), owned by Colonel Reschid. An Arabian (aged), owned by Captain Ibtch.

The first race on the list was run at half-past two, and included in all four carts, each containing one person. It was quite a novelty for us English. Giurgevo (that is, the cart chosen from the Giurgevo road) easily passed the winning post, and left its competitors at a respectable distance. The ground passed over was 2½ miles; and yet these hardy little native horses came in as fresh as when started. The cart is a most uncivilised-looking mode of conveyance, and its only merit is rapidity.

The second race was easily won by the black mare: she bore a high character as a racer when purchased in London some few years ago. Young Harkaway, son of the celebrated horse of that name, is more properly a hunter, and had not the remotest chance. The Princess Isabel came in second, and was not more than a couple of lengths behind. She is a showy mare, with fine action; but has a slight defect in the left fore leg.

Next came off another post-cart race, which was hardly won by Karalash.

The fourth race was the least exciting of all. Six horses were entered, but Sultan did not run, so forfeited stake. Dimbovitza, ridden by H. Webster, came in more than a dozen lengths before the others.

After this, as a finale, we had an amateur race, in which all who liked took part—a Wallachian officer winning.

This has been a good beginning to the introduction of the sport into the country; and so delighted were the people that, on the spot, another meeting, to take place in a month, was agreed upon.

## NEWMARKET SECOND OCTOBER MEETING.—MONDAY.

Fifty Pounds.—Fisherman, 1. Saraband, 2.  
Renewal of the Sweepstakes of 50 sovs. each.—Theodora, 1. Tyne, 2.  
Handicap Sweepstakes of 20 sovs. each.—First Fly, 1. Kestrel, 2.  
Fifty Pounds (Second Class).—Gemma di Vergy, 1. Old Fashion, 2.  
Fifty Pounds (First Class).—Palm, 1. Slattern, 2.  
Sweepstakes of 10 sovs. each.—Sunflower, 1. Polly, 2.  
Produce Match; 300.—Clementina f., 1. Physalis c., 2.

## TUESDAY.

Handicap Sweepstakes of 15 sovs.—Besika, 1. Firmament, 2.  
Selling Handicap Sweepstakes of 10 sovs. each.—Persia, 1. Inspiration, 2.  
Clearwell Stakes.—Latitude c., 1. Sydney, 2.  
Sweepstakes of 10 sovs. each.—Thames Ditton, 1. Alastor, 2.  
Cesarewitch Stakes.—Vengeance, 1. Polestar, 2.  
Sweepstakes of 5 sovs.—Little Tom, 1. Ida, 2.  
Royal Stakes.—Victoria, 1. Blue Bell, 2.

## WEDNESDAY.

Oatlands Plate.—Flatterer, 1. Blossom, 2.  
Match: 200.—Peeping Tom beat Amati.  
Handicap Sweepstakes of 15 sovs.—Vaultor, 1. Evening Star c., 2.  
Handicap Sweepstakes of 10 sovs.—Kestrel, 1. Freethinker, 2.  
Sweepstakes of 10 sovs.—Eardrop, 1. Shiner, 2.  
Town Plate.—Anemone and Tyre ran a dead heat; Anemone afterwards walked over.  
Bedford Stakes.—Vedette, 1. The Western Power, 2.

## THURSDAY.

Sweepstakes.—Inspiration, 1. Admiral of the White, 2.  
Sweepstakes.—Old Fashion, 1. Flyaway, 2.  
Sweepstakes of 10 sovs.—Stormsail, 1. Amati, 2.  
Handicap Sweepstakes.—Thames Ditton, 1. Tom Thumb, 2.  
Plate; 100l.—Druid, 1. Glenae, 2.  
Bretby Stakes.—Rosa Bonheur, 1. Miss Whip f., 2.

EXMOOR PONIES.—In October, 1853, it will be remembered that we gave a paper on "Exmoor," with illustrations of the sale of famous ponies—the hardiest, stoutest, and most sure-footed of the pony race—for harness especially well adapted. No sale has taken place since our artist's visit, but on the 30th October, about fifty, including some fair-sized cobs, quiet to ride, will be sold by auction, at Bampton fair, near Tiverton. As these Exmoors have been carefully bred for many years, from picked mares and stallions, they are worth attention; and the rapid journey by the Great Western through a picturesque country will not be time lost.

CHINESE EMIGRANTS IN AUSTRALIA.—The *Alfred* has arrived from Hong-Kong with 425 Chinese emigrants, most of whom are already on their road to the diggings. It is estimated that there are 10,000 natives of the Celestial Empire employed in the gold-fields in these colonies, some of whom have been so successful as to have realised good fortunes. They are generally most persevering, and, being temperate in their habits, do not squander their earnings as too many of the Europeans and Yankees do. —Letter from Sydney.

ENCOURAGEMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN FRANCE.—The *Echo Agricole* states that the Minister of Agriculture, in order to excite emulation among the farmers, has decided on creating a prize of honour for each of the ten agricultural regions of France, to be divided among such of the farmers of the region as shall have realised the most useful improvements and directed their farming operations in the best manner. The prize is to consist of 5000 f. in money, and a silver cup of the value of 3000 f.

CONSUMPTION OF TOBACCO IN PARIS.—According to a statistical work lately published on the consumption of Paris, the quantity of tobacco consumed in smoking in 1854 was nearly double that of 1839, and that of cigars five times as much; whilst that of snuff, on the contrary, presented a marked diminution. It is calculated that the number of smokers in Paris, including the garrison, is about 420,000, and the total consumption gives 1 kilogramme 973 centigrammes of tobacco, 143 cigars, and 4 cigarettes for each person; or, calculating the cigars at 250, and the cigarettes at 1000 to the kilogramme, 2 kilogrammes 749 centigrammes for each. In England the consumption is calculated to be sixteen ounces a head.

In the northern portion of South Australia Mr. B. Herschel Babbage has discovered geological indications of coal-beds.





SCENE FROM "IL DON GIOVANNI."—PAINTED BY E. H. WEHNERT.

## NOOKS AND CORNERS OF OLD ENGLAND.

## MEMORIALS OF KING ARTHUR.

Our island abounds with sites associated with the fame of this celebrated British chief, whether he be a real or imaginary person. The accompanying picturesque vignettes, sketched by a Correspondent, represent two of these historic localities in Cornwall, where Arthur closed his chivalric career.

First is Slaughter-bridge, so called from its having been the scene of two desperate battles—one between King Arthur and his nephew Mordred, in 542; and the other between the Britons and Saxons, in 823. It lies about one mile north of Camelford, on the river Camel, and three miles east of the renowned King Arthur's Castle, and St. Knighton's Kieve, at Tintagel. Here, tradition says, King Arthur was mortally wounded by Mordred; and a little further on, where a bridge of

flat stones placed upon uprights crosses the stream, the bloodiest scene of the battle is said to have occurred. From this circumstance it has come down as "Slaughter-bridge" to the present hour. The reader will perceive in the Engraving two upright pillars and a gate, down to which at right angles there is a lane with dense hedges on each side; the gate belongs to a private residence upon the hill beyond, formerly the seat of the Earls of Falmouth. There is a ridge in the field running obliquely upwards from the river; what it has been is not easy to decide, perhaps the remnant of some ancient military work.

At about 150 yards north-east on the same river (Camel), tradition points to a spot as "King Arthur's grave," where temporarily his remains were deposited, and removed hence to Glastonbury for interment.

Mr. Davies Gilbert, in his "History of Cornwall," says of this locality:—"At the head of this river, Alan or Camel (from Cabm-alan, the crooked river), is seated Camelford, otherwise written Galleford and Gaffelford, a little village formerly called Kambton, in the opinion of Leland, who tells us that Arthur, the British Hector, was slain here; for, as he adds, pieces of armour, rings, and brass furniture for horses are sometimes dug up here by the countrymen; and after so many ages the tradition of a bloody victory in this place is still preserved. There are also extant some verses of a Middle-Age poet about the 'Camel' running with blood after the battle of Arthur against Mordred. The following are the lines alluded to:—

The river Camel wonders, that  
His fountains nature shows  
So strange a change, the bloody  
stream  
Vpswelling ouerflows

His both side banks, and to the sea  
The slaughtered bodies beares;  
Full many swimme, and sue for ayde  
While wave their life outweares.

In the mean time, not to deny the truth of this story concerning Arthur, I have read in 'Marianus,' mentioned also in the 'Saxon Chronicle,' of a bloody battle here, between the Britons and Saxons, in the year 820, so that the place may seem to be sacred to Mars; and if it be true that Arthur was killed here, the same shore both gave him his first breath and deprived him of his last. Harrison also saith that to this day men that do eare (till) the ground there do oft plough up bones of a large size, and great store of armour; or else it may be (as I rather conjecture) that the Romans had some field or castra thereabout, for not long since (and in the remembrance of men) a brass pot full of Roman coins was found there, as I have often heard."

Carow states:—"Upon the river of Camel, neere to Camelford, was the last dismal battel strooken betwene the noble King Arthur and

his treacherous nephew Mordred, wherein the one took his death and the other his death's-wound. For testimony whereof the olde folke thereabouts will shew you a stone, bearing Arthur's name, though now depraved to Atry." Burlington gives the inscription thus:—

Cotin hic gacet Filius Magari.

## SCENE FROM "IL DON GIOVANNI."

This fine picture was exhibited by Mr. Wehnert last season at the Gallery of the New Society of Painters in Water Colours. The list of shanes in which this fine fable has been presented to Christendom, if given, would almost rival that of Loporollo himself. The "Atheista fulminato," "Il Don Giovanni," "Don Juan" of our own Byron, and a host of others occur to our recollection; foremost of which we might, perhaps, put the "Festin de Pierre" of Molière, if it were only for the unsurpassable pathos of the speeches of Elvira, who loves with the virtuous heart, in spite of the negation of her judgment; or the tender credulous father, who at a single hypocritical look of his son believes him to have reformed and repented. With the catastrophe of the fable, when the hand of the coldhearted rake is seized by the icy stone grasp of the statue, all are familiar. The Arabian vein of invention reveals itself in this punishment of the Spaniard.

**THE SCARCITY OF SILVER.**—The serious nature of this scarcity must be admitted, but not exaggerated, as has been the case. There was a time when silver appeared alone in circulation; gold, then rare, was sold and purchased at a premium. This alarmed nobody. Now to-day a contrary phenomenon is witnessed. Gold is abundant—silver is rare; and the latter is now purchased at a premium. Silver is demanded by nations that are in want of it, and it is exported. It follows the same law as corn or other produce, which is directed on points where the demand is abundant. But money is not eaten nor consumed. Nations which purchase 5*l.* pieces for more than 5*l.* make, perhaps, a profitable investment, while we do not lose. What are we to do? Gold, which abounds, becomes the current coin, and we must content ourselves with a silver circulation sufficient to meet smaller expenses, in coins of one and two francs, in pieces of fifty and twenty centimes, whilst a mixture of gold and silver might be introduced. The gold coin actually in circulation is sufficient for all wants. During the past year the imports of gold amounted in bars to 276,131,700*l.*, and in coin to 107,672,100*l.*—together, 383,803,800*l.*, whilst the exports, in bars and in coin, amounted to 162,740,100*l.*, thus leaving a balance in favour of the imports of 221,063,700*l.* During the same period the movement in silver was as follows:—120,967,740*l.* were imported in bars and in coin, whilst the amount of 321,264,380*l.* was exported; the balance against us was, therefore, 200,296,640*l.*—*Journal des Actionnaires.*

## ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, HENDON.

This Church has lately been erected, together with a Parsonage-house and Schools, in the remarkably short space of eight months. It is intended for the accommodation of a scattered rural population in the neighbourhood of Hampstead-heath, and one-half of the sittings are reserved for the use of the poorer inhabitants.

The want of a church and schools for the poor had long been felt in this neighbourhood. From the peculiar circumstances of the case it was necessary to carry out the plan without the aid of a committee; the whole responsibility, therefore, with the Rev. W. H. Shore, the Incumbent of the district, whose efforts were most energetically seconded by Joseph Hoare, Esq., who had long been engaged in endeavouring to supply the spiritual and moral wants of the poor of the neighbourhood. These gentlemen, assisted by kind friends in Hendon and Hampstead, have succeeded in raising the required funds, with the exception of from £900 to £1000, which remained to be supplied. From the fact of there being but few persons of wealth immediately connected with the district, this is by no means an easy task.

Although the present accommodation does not exceed 350 sittings, the architect has most judiciously arranged for the future enlargement of the church in such a manner that, though the present building is complete in itself, it will, when enlarged according to his design, form a most striking and handsome example of Decorated Gothic. The Dean and Chapter of Westminster very generously gave the freehold of the site; the Diocesan Church Building Society, a grant of £150; and the Incorporated Society, £100; the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge also presented a handsome set of service books. It should not be omitted that the working people of the district presented a very handsome font.

The arrangement of the plan of this building consists of a nave 70 feet long by 30 feet broad, a chancel 22 feet long by 17 feet, from which is a recess for the organ. The nave is so designed and constructed that large transepts can be added as well as the aisles. The height to the top of the roof is forty-six feet, on which is a bell-turret, covered with oak shingle. The whole of the fittings are of deal, stained and varnished. The chancel is paved with Minton's tiles, and the east end suitably painted. The fittings and furniture of the chancel are of an ornate character, and have been given by parties who appreciate the unwearied exertions of the Incumbent in the good cause. Mr. Talbot Bury, of Welbeck-street, Cavendish-square, is the architect.



"SLAUGHTER BRIDGE," NEAR CAMELFORD.



"KING ARTHUR'S GRAVE," NEAR CAMELFORD.

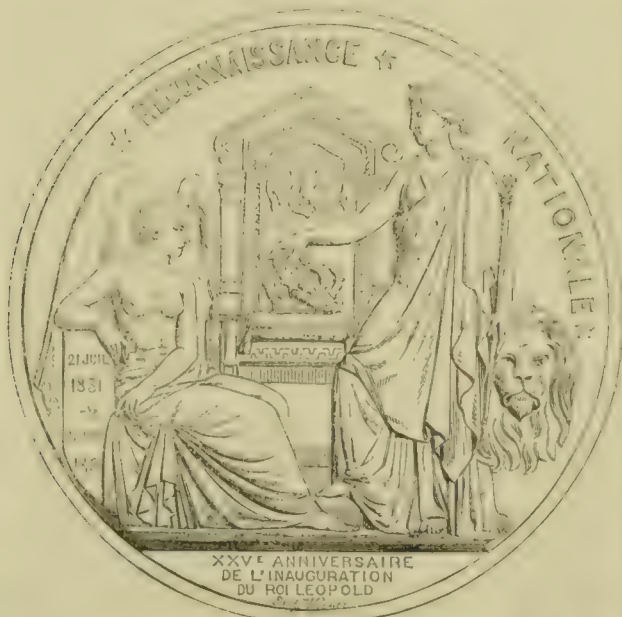


THE BELGIAN MEDAL.

THE medallist art has of late years made remarkable progress in Belgium; and at the head of those artists who have contributed to this success we are disposed to rank M. L. Wiener, who, in 1847, obtained the prize offered by the Belgian Mint for the gold money. M. Wiener has just added to his well-earned reputation by the execution of one of the medals lately struck at Brussels in commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Belgian Revolution, and of the accession of King Leopold. We have engraved the latter medal. The obverse bears the bust of King Leopold—an admirable likeness;



MEDAL STRUCK IN COMMEMORATION OF THE BELGIAN REVOLUTION AND THE ACCESSION OF KING LEOPOLD.



upon the reverse is a figure placing a wreath of laurel upon the Belgian crown the symbol of royalty; while the personification of Glory points to an inscribed tablet.

PARIS EXHIBITION OF FISH-HATCHING.

At the Paris Agricultural Show the Fish-Hatching apparatus, of which we give an illustration, attracted a good deal of attention as a kind of epitome of the experiments which have been carried out by the French Government for restocking the principal rivers and lakes of that kingdom with salmon, trout, carp, and cray-fish.

It is curious that this art should have been so long neglected. It was practised by the Romans, and has always been employed by the Chinese for raising gold and silver fish. A paper on the subject was brought before the Berlin Academy of Science, somewhere about 1797. But the present art as practised successfully in France is a complete rediscovery, or as to apparatus, reinvention. But by far the latest and most interesting account of the practical results of this new and curious branch of industry is to be found in the "Report of the committee upon the experiments conducted at Stormonfield, near Perth, for the artificial propagation of salmon, read before the British Association at Cheltenham by Sir William Jardine."

Attention was first called to the subject by the highly-successful experiments carried out in France under the patronage of the Go-

vernment. The example was followed by Mr. Garnett, at Clitheroe, and by the Messrs. Ashworth, of Bolton, in Lancashire, on the estates which they purchased at Outerard, in Ireland, for the purpose of endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the people of that country after the famine years. These experiments attracted the attention of the parties interested in the fisheries of the Tay where of late years a serious diminution had taken place in the stock of salmon.

On the 19th July, 1852, a meeting of the proprietors of the river was held at Perth to consider the subject. Mr. Thomas Ashworth attended, and explained the operations that had been carried on by himself and his brother Mr. Edmund Ashworth at their fisheries in Ireland. The Earl of Mansfield, the chairman, gave leave to select the most favourable site for the purpose from his estates, and Stormonfield Mill, not far from the Palace of Scone, was chosen. "A gentle slope from the lade (qy. weir?) which supplies the mill offered every facility for the equable flow of water through the boxes and ponds. Three hundred boxes were laid down in twenty-five parallel rows; each box partly filled with clean gravel and pebbles, and protected at both ends with zinc grating, to exclude trout and insects. Filtering-beds were formed at the head and foot of the rows; and a pond for the reception of the fry was constructed immediately below the hatching ground. On the 23rd November operations were commenced," that is to say, the net was put in requisition to catch female fish from the spawning beds of the Tay, ripe for spawning; and to each six to ten female fish one or more male fish. The females in proper condition gave forth their ova on gentle pressure, and after being relieved swam away quite lively. These ova were duly impregnated

by the milt of the male fish. By the 23rd December 300,000 ova were deposited in the boxes.

The progress of fecundation and depositing the ova in boxes was conducted by Mr. Ramsbottom. The ova was placed as much as possible in the same condition as they would have been by the salmon on natural spawning beds, but with the advantage of being protected from a variety of accidents and enemies. Sometimes the alluvial matter floating in times of flood will bury the ova too deep for the young fry to escape, even if hatched; some times floods will sweep away whole spawning beds, and at all times fish and waterfowl prey greedily on the spawn before, and the young fry after, hatching has taken place. In the boxes the ova are protected from injury, large numbers are hatched, and the young are reared in safety. On the 31st March, 1854, the first ovum was hatched, and the greater number of the remainder followed in April and May, and swarmed about the boxes. In June they were admitted into the pond, their average size being about an inch and a half in length. They were fed daily on boiled liver rubbed small with the hand. In the spring of 1855, notwithstanding a severe winter, they were found to have increased in size to the average of three or four inches in length.

After two meetings on the subject, it having been found that a considerable number of the fry had become "actual smolts," the committee determined to allow them to depart, instead of detaining them for another year; and on the 19th May the sluice from the pond communicating with the Tay was opened; but none of the fry showed any inclination to leave the pond until the 24th of May, when the larger and more mature smolts, after having held them-



FISH-HATCHING APPARATUS, AT PARIS.



NEW CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS', CHILD'S HILL, HENDON.—(SEE PRECEDING PAGE.)



NEW BAPTIST CHAPEL OF ST. MICHAEL, COVENTRY.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)



selves detached from the others for several days, went off in a body. A series of similar emigrations took place until fully one-half of the fry had left the pond and made their way by the sluice to the Tay. And now come to light facts proving that two apparently contradictory theories as to the progressive growth of the salmon are both true. The fry that continued in the ponds remained during the winter, scarcely increasing in size, "parrs," and did not weigh more than one ounce, each at a time when, between 29th May and 31st July, smolts which had been marked on their departure were re-caught as grilse on their return migration to the river, weighing progressively, according to date of capture, 5 lb., 7 lb., to 8 lb.; and on the 31st July not less than 9 lb., all gained in two months, while the milt in the male "parrs" of an ounce was as much developed as in their brethren of the same age of seven or eight pounds weight.

In the winter of 1855-56 the fry were still "parrs," healthy, but not increasing in size. In April, from the 26th to 28th, they rapidly turned into smolts, and went daily in shoals from the pond to the river.

Sir William Jardine observes:—

The experiment of fish-hatching may now be said to be completed. The results have been satisfactory in two ways: in showing the practicability of hatching, rearing, and maintaining in health a very large number of young fish for a period of two years; it has also been proved that young fish turned out as smolts return as grilse within a period of from five to ten weeks. Thus salmon of marketable value may be raised and reared within twenty months. It is supposed that 120,000 fry left the ponds in 1856, of which 200 were marked with silver rings, and 1135 by cutting off the lower part of the tail diagonally.

Now that fish-hatching has become an operation as certain as pheasant-hatching, it may be worth the while of owners of suburban hotels and gardens whether they might not create a new attraction wherever they have water flow, by making a series of trout rearing and feeding ponds. In some places the works might be made to pay in the fish reared without the fishing attraction.

## ST. MICHAEL'S NEW BAPTIST CHAPEL, COVENTRY.

ON Thursday, the 9th inst., the foundation-stone of this new chapel was laid with the accustomed ceremony by Mr. Apsley Pollatt, M.P.; who, in addressing the large number of spectators present, observed that the deep interest he found was taken in that day's proceedings by the people of Coventry gave him a high sense of the value entertained by them of religious teaching. It was also, the hon. gentleman observed, matter for congratulation that they were allowed to worship God according to the dictates of conscience. This was a privilege of the value of which they were not in-ensible. At one time they were driven into back streets; but now they could press into their service all the graces and glories of architecture. The hon. gentleman concluded by referring to the effects of Christianity upon the country; and, with respect to our Sunday scholars, observed that it was a sight on which foreigners might look, and from which they would learn something as to what could be done by the voluntary system applied to religion. He trusted that that system would be indeed blessed, and would be found to thrive abundantly in the building the first stone of which he had just laid.

The 5th hymn was then sung, a part of the 17th chapter of the 1st Book of Chronicles was read, and the Rev. W. T. Rosevear having offered prayer, the meeting separated.

The event was celebrated by a public dinner in the beautiful Corn Exchange, lately erected, at which about 250 persons were present. The Rev. W. T. Rosevear presided; and, after the usual loyal toasts, proposed the health of Mr. Pollatt, M.P., and concluded by presenting the hon. gentleman with the handsome silver trowel which he had used in laying the foundation-stone. Mr. Pollatt's health was drunk with great applause. Several other toasts followed, including the health of Sir Joseph Paxton, M.P.; who thanked the company in an address which was received with loud and continued cheering.

The amount collected during the day towards the building fund was £111 19s., including £25 from Sir Joseph Paxton, and £5 5s. from Mr. Apsley Pollatt.

The Chapel, which is calculated to accommodate 670 persons on the ground floor and in the galleries, is designed in the style of architecture designated "Decorated Gothic," but in general effect partakes of the Continental. The interior is divided into nave, north and south aisles, north and south (double) transepts, with vestries and organ chamber at the east end. The benches on the ground floor and in the galleries are open, with solid moulded ends, of pleasing form and slightly-reclining backs. The passages will be paved with Milton's tiles. The eastern wall of the nave is divided into three heights—the lower one occupied by a stone screen, in which are the doors, &c., of the vestries; in the middle one is the pulpit, of stone, projecting from the wall on moulded and carved corbels, the sides being paneled, and intended to receive appropriate carved subjects. The pulpit is entered from the upper vestry, through a richly-moulded and canopied doorway, of stone, which does away with the usual unsightly staircases attached to pulpits in buildings of this class. Over the pulpit is a large circular tracery window, which is to receive stained glass. A richly-moulded arch incloses these three divisions, and gives to the end considerable effect. The roofs are to be of open-timber framing, formed as strong coupled rafters, two feet apart, and plastered between, and having pined ribs over each column. We understand the architect intends introducing a novel and effective arrangement of iron columns and arches for the support of the galleries and roofs—the ribs radiating from the columns having somewhat the appearance of grains, and filled in with geometric forms. The arrangement is considered a step gained in the application of iron in architectural construction. The architect is Mr. James Murray, of Coventry, who is well known for the important public buildings erected by him in the city and neighbourhood. Mr. George Taylor, of Coventry, has undertaken the erection of the building for £2750.

## THE UNITED STATES' STEAM-FRIGATE "MERRIMAC."

This noble steam-frigate—the first of a class of six war vessels, considered by the Americans to be a match for the largest and most heavily-armed ships afloat, and the capabilities of which have excited the greatest interest in this country to naval men and the public generally—has lately arrived in Southampton Water from the Gulf of Mexico, where she has been on her trial cruise, and is now lying at moorings off Netley Abbey.

The *Merrimac* is a first-class auxiliary screw steam-frigate, of 3937 tons measurement, with a load displacement of 4500 tons. She was designed at Washington by Mr. Lenthall, and built at Boston by Mr. Delano. Her frame is of live oak, crossed on the inside with two sets of diagonal iron plates which are inclined in opposite directions. She is also strengthened by similar plates on the outside at bow and stern. Her plank is also of oak, and, like our own ships of war, she is copper-fastened up to a few feet above the load water-line. She has a long, sharp bow, is a beautiful model, and roomy ship, and the appearance of her main-deck is unsurpassed. With all sail set she spreads 55,000 feet of canvas; and, from the great length and massive appearance of her hull, seems capable of carrying much larger masts and spars than those she is at present fitted with.

The *Merrimac* is pierced for 69 guns, but if she were actually to carry that number they would have to be of a lighter character than those now on board. Her present armament is as follows:—On her upper deck there are two large pivot guns, each weighing nearly five and a half tons, of ten inches bore; and fourteen 8-inch guns, each weighing rather more than three tons; on her gun-deck there are twenty-four 9-inch guns, each weighing nearly four and a half tons. The whole of these guns, forty in all, though strong enough to discharge solid shot, if desired, are primarily intended to be served with hollow shot, or with shell—for it is now a practice with the Americans to supply their navy with a quantity of empty hollow shot, which may be either plugged and used as such, or charged, fitted with fuzes, and used as shells. The whole of the 9-inch guns, or main-deck guns, as well as the two 10-inch pivot guns, are formed upon Commander Dahlgren's system, which consists in giving to the gun, at each point of its length, a thickness proportioned to the direct pressure of the powder in the chase at that point, supposing the gun to be fired with an ordinary service charge.

The height of the main-deck is 6 feet 3 inches, clear of the upper-deck beams—the arrangements similar to our own vessels of the same class. Her magazines have capacity for 60,000 pounds of powder. The engines are of 600-horse power, by Mr. Parrott, of the Cold Springs Foundry, New York: she has two cylinders of 72 inches diameter, with a 3-foot stroke, and two rods to each piston; and is fitted with a Griffith's screw propeller, with means of varying the pitch. In this respect she differs

from her sister ships, all of which have ordinary propellers. This screw is 26 feet 2 inches in pitch, and 17 feet 4 inches in diameter, and can be unshipped and hoisted on deck. The shaft is inclosed in an iron tunnel 116 feet long, by about 7 feet square, allowing the engineers free passage on each side of the shaft to its entry through the stuffing-box into the water. She is fitted with four vertical tubular boilers, patented by Mr. Martin, United States' navy. They weigh when empty 255,000 pounds, and 410,000 pounds when filled to their working level.

The *Merrimac* is 300 feet long over all; 250 feet on keel; and 260 feet on load water-line, with a beam of 51 feet 4 inches, and draws 24 feet water. The height of her bulwarks to the stowed hammocks is 8 feet 8 inches. Her crew, including officers, is 561 men. She is commanded by Captain Prendergast; is in a high state of cleanliness, smartness, and order; and the officers all show the greatest attention to the numerous visitors who board their magnificent and interesting vessel. She is expected to take her departure—for Havre, Cadix, Lisbon, and the West Indies—from Southampton Water in about a fortnight.

Next week we shall illustrate the guns of the *Merrimac*, and give a detailed account of her armament.

## COUNTRY NEWS.

### METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS AT THE HIGHFIELD HOUSE OBSERVATORY, NEAR NOTTINGHAM, FOR THE WEEK ENDING OCT. 11, 1856.

Month	Corrected Reading of Barometer at 9 A.M. 1st foot above sea level.	Thermometer. Highest Reading.	Lowest Reading.	Mean Temperature of the Day.	Rain in Inches.	Mean Temperature of Wet Bulb.	Exposure.	Amount of Rain in the Night.	Mean amount of Cloud (0-10).
Oct. 8	29.866	52.8	47.0	48.8	0.005	47.8	47.1	9	1.5
" 9	30.068	51.5	42.2	49.4	0.000	48.8	46.4	1	10.0
" 10	30.104	50.0	48.8	53.2	0.170	53.3	52.8	4	3
" 11	29.980	50.2	50.0	54.2	0.395	52.8	51.8	4	2.5
" 12	29.957	50.0	48.0	52.3	0.065	51.3	50.9	3	4
" 13	30.085	50.0	46.0	52.7	0.008	50.9	51.9	2	3
" 14	29.952	60.8	49.8	55.8	0.025	55.3	53.6	8	3
Mean	30.016	50.5	47.4	52.3	0.073	51.9	50.6	4.4	2.9

The range of temperature during the week was 22.8 deg.

The weather: rainy.

The direction of the wind: Variable between N.E. and E. and S.

E. J. Lowe.

Mr. BRIGIT, M.P.—The member for Manchester is said to be suffering from illness. It is feared that he will not be able to resume his place in the House of Commons during the ensuing Session of Parliament.

MISS NIGHTINGALE IN THE NORTH.—Miss Nightingale passed through Aberdeen on Friday says the *Aberdeen Herald* on her way south. She left by the 10.45 train; and, although she had taken every precaution to prevent the knowledge of her presence, a considerable number of people assembled, anxious to see her, and, if opportunity offered, to pay her some mark of the homage due to exalted virtue and philanthropy. She, however, shunned observation, and speedily took her place, and sat back in the carriage that was to convey her off.

SIAM BRIDAL PRESENTS.—The *Aberdeen Free Press*, in quoting from the *Home Journal*, an American print, to the effect that it has been found that the costly display of bridal presents at New York has been hired from jewellers, says:—"This practice is not, we fear, confined to New York. Indeed, our right-hand gossip declares it to be not very uncommon in Aberdeen."

THE NEW LINE TO AUSTRALIA.—On Tuesday last a public dejeuner was given at Southampton on board the *Onida*, one of the packets for the Australian line established by the European and Australian Steam Navigation Company. The dejeuner was given as a celebration of the commencement of the new mail service to be carried out by this company. The *Onida* is to sail on Sunday as the pioneer of the new line, and, after her arrival at Melbourne, will be employed between that port and Suez, running in correspondence with other steamships on this side of the Isthmus, between Alexandria and Southampton.—The regular mail service to and from England and Australia, via Suez, will not commence till February next, when the first homeward mail may be expected at Southampton.

INCENDIARY FIRES.—On Monday night the Secretary of State issued a notice, which was sent to every police station in the metropolitan, City, and suburban districts, stating that certain incendiary fires had lately taken place at Bicester, a market town fifty-five miles north-west of London, whereby property of considerable value had been destroyed, and the inhabitants, comprising nearly 4000 souls, had been greatly alarmed. The sum of £500 has therefore been offered by her Majesty's Government, and a further sum of 4500, for the like purpose has been subscribed for in the neighbourhood. The sum of £500, so collected will be distributed, by a committee appointed for that purpose, to such person or persons as may give information and evidence which shall lead to conviction; and her Majesty's gracious pardon is promised to any accomplice, not being the actual one who set fire to the said property, who shall give such information and evidence as shall lead to the same result.

At the Liverpool Police Court, on Tuesday, three men were fined 5s. and costs for being concerned in a dog-fight in a house in Preston-street.

## MONETARY TRANSACTIONS OF THE WEEK.

(From our City Correspondent.)

NOTWITHSTANDING that we have had rather a large arrival of gold—viz. 265,000, from Australia, and 100,000, from New York—and that the dividend payments have been in progress, the market for home securities has been comparatively heavy, and prices have given way nearly one per cent. The public, for the most part, have not been buyers of stock, and many of the large holders who purchased last week have become sellers, under the impression that the Bank of England will shortly advance the minimum rate of discount to 6½ or even 7 per cent. We know that the question has been seriously debated in the "parlour" on more than one day this week. Nearly the whole of the imports of gold above noticed have been purchased for the Continent—some parties state on account of the *Credit Mobilier* for transmission to Vienna to pay for Austrian railroads; and we learn that about 80,000, has been withdrawn from the Bank for shipment to Paris. These purchases will, we assume, be continued, although we understand that the stock of bullion in the Bank of France is steadily increasing.

Numerous applications have been made to the Bank of England for assistance; but no bills are now discounted by it unless of a first-class character. In the general discount market money has become dearer, owing to the Bank directors having refused to renew advances upon Stock for a longer period than seven days. Nothing is done under six per cent. On the Stock Exchange money has been worth five to six per cent on Consols for short periods; eight to ten on Foreign Stocks, and ten to even twelve per cent on other securities.

The amount of money coined at the Royal Mint from the 1st of January to the 26th September was 4,530,217, 10s. in gold, 3,061,000, in silver, and 828,7 in copper.

On Monday the Consol Market was inactive, and prices were drooping. The Three per Cents Reduced marked 92½ to 91; Consols for Transfer, 92 to 91½; Ditto, for Account, 92½ to 92; New Three per Cents, 91½ to 91; Long Annuities, 1860, 2 13-16; Ditto, 1860, 3 1-16; Bank Stock, 215; India Bonds, 6s. prem.; Exchequer Bills, 4s. to 8s. prem.; Exchequer Bonds, 92½ to 91½. The dealings on Tuesday were limited, and prices were further reduced. The Three per Cents, for money, were done at 91½ to 91; the Account price being 92½ down to 91½. The Reduced Threes were 92½ to 90½; the New Three per Cents, 91½ to 91; Five per Cents, 114; Long Annuities, 1860, 2 13-16 to 7; Ditto, 1860, 18 1-16; India Bonds, 6s. to 11s.; Exchequer Bills, 4s. to 8s. prem.; Exchequer Bonds, 92½ to 91½. Wednesday's business was trifling, and the quotations fluctuated to some extent.—Bank Stock, 211 to 213; Three per Cents Reduced, 90½ to 91; Three per Cent Consols, 91½ to 91; New Three per Cents, 91½ to 90½; Consols for Account, 91½ to 92; Long Annuities, 1860, 2 13-16 to 7; Ditto, 1860, 18 1-16; India Bonds, 6s. to 10s. prem.; Exchequer Bills, 3s. to 9s. prem.; Exchequer Bonds, 92½ to 91½. On Thursday the Directors of the Bank of England came to the determination not to renew loans, except on Exchequer Bills only, and not to lend money either on foreign securities or foreign stock. The market opened steadily, but subsequently it became heavy and drooping.—The Three per Cents for Money were first done at 91½ to 91, and closed at 91½; for Account the quotations were 91½ to 92½ to 91½; the Reduced were 90½ to 90½; and the New Three per Cents, 91½ to 91; Bank Stock, 213. Exchequer Bills declined 2s. and 5s. prem.; the Bonds, 92½ to 91; and India Bonds, 5s. prem.

Another fall has taken place in the value of Turkish Six per Cents; but the Guaranteed Stock has continued to hold its firm. Most other Foreign Securities have been steady in price, but the business doing in them has been very moderate. Brazilian Five per Cents have marked 10; Ditto, Four-and-a-Half per Cents, New, 9½; Greek, New, 9½; Two-and-a-Quarter per Cents, 22½; Ditto, Deferred, 7; Greek Bonds, 5; Portuguese Three per Cents, 4½; Russian Four-and-a-Half per Cents, 9½ to 97½; Sardinian Five per Cents, 90 and 87; Spanish

Three per Cents, 42½; Ditto, New Deferred, 21; Turkish Six per Cents, 92½ down to 89½ and 87½ ex div.; Ditto, Four per Cents, 99½ and 93½; French Rentes, Three per Cents, 67 francs; Dutch Two-and-a-Half per Cents, 6½; Dutch Four per Cents, 95½ and 94½ ex div.; Peruvian Three per Cents, 54½; Peruvian Four-and-a-Half per Cents, 77.

All Joint-stock Bank Shares have been in moderate request, at mostly full prices:—Bank of London, 65; City, 69; Colonial, 21; English, Scottish, and Australian Chartered, 16; London and County, 31; Oriental, 37½; Ottoman Bank, 12½; Union of Australia, 65½; Ditto, New, 8½; Union of London, 26½.

The transactions in Miscellaneous Securities have been small compared with the state of the Consol Market. Canada Government Six per Cents have been done at 112½; English and Australian Copper Smelting Company, 13; London Dock, 103; London General Omnibus, 34; National Discount Company, 53; Ditto, New, 12; New South Wales Government Debentures, 101½; Peninsular and Oriental Steam, 6; Royal Mail Steam, 66; Scottish Australian Investment, 13; Hungerford Bridge Shares, 8; Waterloo New Annuities of 7½, 20½; Vauxhall, 20½; East and West India Docks, 126; Southampton, 46; Victoria, 20½; Ditto, New, 12½; Berlin Waterworks, 53; East London, 119; Kent, 80; Grand Junction, 77; Ditto, New, 33; Lambeth, 95; West Middlesex, 160.

The amount of business doing in the Railway Share Market has been very moderate; nevertheless, no serious fall has taken place in the quotations. The following are the official closing prices on Thursday:—

ORDINARY SHARES AND STOCKS.—Caledonian, 53½; Ambalgate, Nottingham, and Boston, 4; Edinburgh, Perth, and Dundee, 31½; Great Northern, A Stock, 80; Great Western, 63½; Lancaster and Carlisle, 73; Ditto, New Thirds, 18½; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 93½; London and Blackwall, 6½; London and Brighton, 101; London and North-Western, 100; London and South-Western, 102; Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire, 31; Midland, 75½; North-Eastern—Beverly, 73½; Ditto, York, 54.

Lines Leased at Fixed Rentals.—Gloucester and Dean Forest, 27½; Lowestoft, 82.

PREFERENCE SHARES.—Chester and Holyhead, 16½; Great Northern, 114½; Ditto, Redeemable at Ten per Cent, 110; Great Western Five per Cent, 99; Midland Consolidated, 138; Ditto, Leicester and Ilkeston Stock, 89; Norfolk Debentures, Four per Cent, 84; South Devon, 154; Stockton and Darlington, 27½; Waterford and Kilkenny, 33.

FOREIGN.—Antwerp and Rotterdam, 6½; East Indian, A and B, 22; Geelong and Melbourne, 22½; Great Central of France, 22; Great Indian Peninsula, 21; Great Luxembourg, 33; Great Western of Canada, 22½; Lombardo-Venetian, 101; Northern of France, 37; Sambre and Meuse, 91; West Flanders, 42; Wiesbaden, 2.

Mining Shares have been dull. On Thursday Brazilian Imperial (Cocais and Cuibata) were done at 33; Cobro Copper, 64; Mariquita, 4; New Granada, 4.

## THE MARKETS.

COIN-EXCHANGE, October 13.—The supply of English wheat in to-day's market was but moderate as to quantity, and very deficient in quality. Fine dry samples were mostly disposed of at prices equal to Monday last, but other kinds ruled heavy, at a decline in the quotation of from 1s. to 2s. per quarter. The show of foreign wheat was good, and abundant average business was transacted in that grain, at previous currencies. Floating cargoes commanded extreme rates. The barley trade was much less active, and former terms were with difficulty supported. Malt changed hands to a fair extent, on former terms. Although we were extensively supplied with foreign oats, the oat trade was steady, at full prices. Beans and peas moved off steadily, at late rates. Fine flour supported previous quotations, but in other kinds there was a dull inquiry.

Oct. 15.—The supplies of grain in to-day's market were only moderate, yet the general demand was in a very sluggish state, at Monday's currency.

English.—Wheat, Essex and Kent, 60s. to 72s.; ditto, white, 63s. to 75s.; Norfolk and Suffolk, 60s. to 71s.; rye, 41s. to 45s.; grinding barley, 54s. to 58s.; distilling ditto, 41s. to 43s.; malting ditto, 43s. to 50s.; Lincoln and Norfolk malt, 68s. to 75s.; brown ditto, 62s. to 65s.; Kingston and Ware, 68s. to 70s.; Chevalier, 75s. to 77s.; Yorkshire and Lincolnshire feed oats, 28s. to 29s.; potato ditto, 34s. to 35s.; Youghal and Cork, black, 22s. to 25s.; ditto, white, 23s. to 28s.; tick beans, 14s. to 15s.; grey peas, 48s. to 45s.; mangle, 42s. to 46s.; white, 42s. to 44s.; boilers, 42s. to 47s. per quarter. Town-made flour, 54s. to 60s.; Suffolk, 48s. to 50s.; Stockton and Yorkshire, 48s. to 51s. per 250 lb. American flour, 32s. to 40s. per barrel.

Wool.—Chester, of the present year's growth, is held at very full prices. Canary, 1s. red, 1s. 10d. and 1s. 11d. and 1s. 12d. per cwt. for other articles are dull.

Livestock, English, 41s. to 60s.; Mediterranean, 50s. to 55s.; Hampshire, 44s. to 52s. per quarter. Cattle, 22s. to 24s. per cwt. Brown mustard seed, 20s. to 22s.; white, 18s. to 19s.; turn, 6s. to 6s. 6d. per bushel. English rapeseed, 8s. to 9s. per quarter. Linseed cakes, 12s. 10d. to 13s. 10d.; castor, foreign, 110s. to 111s. 6d.; rape cakes, 25s. 10d. to 26s. 10d. per ton. Canary, 60s. to 75s. per quarter.

Wheat.—The prices of wheat bread in the metropolis are from 9d. to 9½d.; of household, 10d. to 11d. per lb. loaf.

Imperial Weekly Average.—Wheat, 61s. 9d.; barley, 42s. 9d.; oats, 25s. 9d.; rye, 38s. 11d.; beans, 45s. 2d.; peas, 48s. 3d.

The *Star* of the 13th inst. says:—Wheat, 61s. 10d.; barley, 41s. 11d.; oats, 25s. 6d.; rye, 38s. 11d.; beans, 45s. 4d.; peas, 48s. 4d.

English grain sold last week.—Wheat, 111,135; barley, 61,787; oats, 14,150; rye, 862; beans, 5776; peas, 1,964 quarters.

Tea.—The supplies of all kinds of tea continue somewhat extensive, and the demand generally is confined to retail parcels, at last week's prices. Common sound Congou, 8½d. to 8½d. per lb.

Sugar.—We have had a brisk demand for raw sugars this week, and prices have advanced 1s. per cwt. Barbadoes has reached 41s. to 49s. 6d.; St. Lucia, 42s. to 46s.; Mauritius, 34s. to 38s. per cwt. Floating cargoes of foreign are held for more money. Refined goods are 14s. 6d. per cwt. Groceries largely selling at 2s. to 2s. 6d. per cwt.

Coffee.—Latter large public sales have been held, yet the bidings have ruled steady, at full quotations. Native Ceylon coffee is selling at 2s. to 2s. 6d. per cwt.

Rice.—This article is steady, but the business doing in it is by no means so extensive as last week. Prices are very firm, and Bengal qualities are worth 10s. to 13s. 6d. per cwt.

Provisions.—Fine Irish butter has sold steadily, and prices have had an upward tendency. All other kinds of butter support last week's currency. The bacon market is heavy, and the quotations have further declined 2s. to 3s. per cwt. Hams and lard are quite as dear as last week.

Tallow.—The season's shipments from St. Petersburg are stated to be 91,000 casks. Our market is very firm, and prices have an upward tendency. F.Y.C. for the spot, 92s. 9d. to 92s. 6d. per cwt. Town tallow, 52s. 6d. net cash.

Oil.—Lined oil, on the spot, is firm, at 40s. to 40s. 3d. per cwt. Foreign refined rape is selling at 52s. to 55s. 6d.; brown, 52s. 6d.; palm, 48s. to 49s. 6d.; coconut, 46s. to 48s. 6d.; pale seed and red, 44s. to 45s.; sperm, 410s. to 410s.; southern, 411 to 415; Galipoli, 45s. to 45s. Turpentine is steady, at 31s. 6d. to 32s. 6d. per cwt. for spirits, and 9s. for rough.

Spirits.—We have a much better feeling in the demand for rum, on rather higher terms. Proof Leeward and East India, 2s. 3d. to 2s. 4d. per gallon. Brandy is in good request, at extreme quotations. Sales of cognac, best brands of 1855, 10s. 3d. to 10s. 5d.; 1851 ditto, 10s. 3d. to 10s. 11d.; older, 10s. 10d. to 11s. 10d.; and low to middling, 5s. 6d. to 7s. per gallon.

Hay and Straw.—Meadow hay, 22 10s. to 24 10s.; clover ditto, 13 10s. to 15 10s., and straw, 11 10s. to 12 10s. per load.

Cheese.—New Tansfield, 17s.; Tansfield Moor, 16s. 6d.; Walker Primrose, 16s.; Gosforth, 17s. 9d.; Riddell, 17s. 9d.; Haswell, 20s.; South Hetton, 20s.; Hough Hall, 18s. 6d.; Whitworth, 18s. per ton.

Hops.—The demand for most new hops is steady, as follows:—Mid and East Kent pockets, 7s. to 10s.; Weymouth of Kent, 6s. to 8s.; Sussex, 6s. to 7s.; Farnham, 7s. to 10s. per cwt. Duty, £220,000.

Wool.—The demand for English wool is steady, at full prices. In other kinds only a limited business is doing. The imports are very limited.

Cotton.—The supplies are reasonably good, and a full average business is doing in them, at from 8s. to 10s. per ton.

Metropolitan Cattle Market.—The arrivals of stock have been very moderate. Generally speaking, the trade has ruled very inactive, yet prices have been on the advance:—Beef, from 2s. 8d. to 4s. 8d.; mutton, 3s. 6d. to 5s. 2d.; veal, 3s. 10d. to 5s. 0d.; pork, 3s. 8d. to 4s. 6d. per lb. to sink the oil.

Sheep and Lamb.—These markets have been well supplied with each kind of meat, which has sold slowly, as follows:—Beef, from 2s. 6d. to 4s. 4d.; mutton, 3s. 6d. to 4s. 3d.; veal, 3s. 6d. to 4s. 6d.; pork, 3s. 8d. to 5s. 4d. per lb., by the carcase.

ROBERT HERBERT.

## THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, OCT. 10.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.

J. H. MITCHELL, Kingston-upon-Hull, boot and shoe maker.

BANKRUPT.

W. SIMMONS, Redruth, Cornwall, tailor and draper.—W. H. GIBSON, Hereford, carrier.—W. J. C. MAXTED, Chatham, Kent, draper.—W. J. ROBINSON, Bowling-green House, Kensington Oval, antiques and other.—W. ROBE, Kingsland-road, Shoreditch, baker.—J. ASHFORD, Southam, Warwickshire, grocer.—C. JONES, Gloucester, sailmaker and shipowner.—P. D. KAIN, Kier William-street, City, and Crystal Palace, Sydenham, dealer in fancy goods.—J. LEDWARD, the younger, Gorton, Lancashire, cotton manufacturer.—M. A. and J. LEWIS, Fleet-street, Edgware, lithographic printers and stationers.—C. LEITCHER and J. E. LITTLEJOY, Liverpool, corn merchants.—W. H. MONROE, Boston, Lancashire, pawnbroker and silversmith.

TUESDAY, OCT. 14.

BANKRUPT.

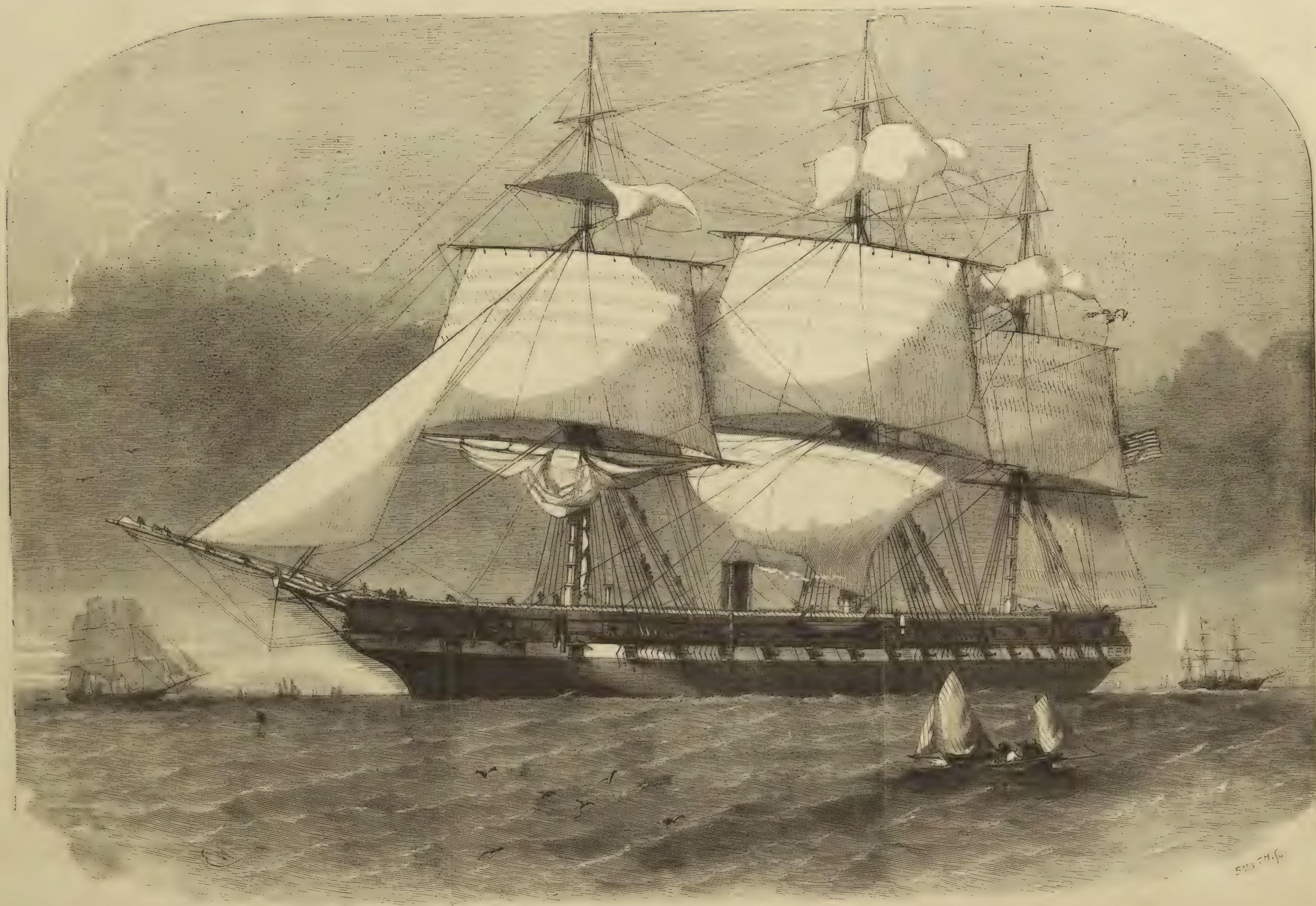
J. DURRANT, Wormwood-street, City, tailor.—J. LONG, Bedford-street, Bedford-square, 41, 42, 43.

—H. GANDER, Catherine Wheel Inn, Catherine Wharf, High-street, common carrier, licensed victualler, wine merchant, and carrier.—A. HURST, Ball Head









THE UNITED STATES' STEAM-FRIGATE "MERRIMAC."—(SEE PAGE 396.)





No. 826.]

OCTOBER 18, 1856.

[Vol. XXIX.]

# CORONATION FESTIVITIES IN MOSCOW.

(From a Correspondent.)<sup>1</sup>

Moscow, September 23.

I THINK there are few persons who visit Moscow whose preconceived notions of the place are not entirely upset—mine certainly

were. The impression stereotyped upon my mind was that of a city, narrow in streets, crowded in population, fetid in atmosphere, filthy in most things, and Oriental in all; a moving mass of parti-coloured population jostling each other through those narrow streets and disputing the *pas* with mules laden with the wealth of India and of far Cathay; listless turbaned shopkeepers sitting amidst

rich satins in dingy booths under many-coloured awnings, smoking chibouks; greasy Hebrews lurking in the dark recesses of their den-like shops, spider-like, ready to pounce upon their prey; longitudinal-eyed Chinese, subtle Malays, stolid Germans, gaping Englishmen—representatives of all nations, clad in all costumes, elbowing each other in the crowded way. This was the ideal picture—a mixture of



THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. BASIL, AT MOSCOW, ILLUMINATED.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)



Bagdad and St. Mary Axe, and a modern realisation of the manners and customs of the "Arabian Nights' Entertainments." Such, then, was the ideal; how different the real. Broad streets, substantial houses, handsome public edifices, fine churches, splendid palaces; before these vanished the illusion which I—forgetful that modern Moscow is not the Moscow of Ivan the Terrible—nor even that city which Napoleon found too hot to hold him—had unthinkingly cherished. In place of the picturesque variety of costume which I had pictured to myself, I found only the regulation grey cloak of the military, the quiet surtout of the civilian, and the greasy sheepskin integument (no higher name can be applied to it) of the mujik. As to the longitudinal-eyed Chinese and the subtle Malays, they are subtle enough to stay at home, and not come to Moscow upon either business or pleasure.

In its form, or plan, the city of Moscow may not inaptly be likened to a peach, or other stone-fruit, whereof the Kremlin is the kernel; the ancient walls are the shell, and the great bulk of the city, which lies without and around these walls, the pleasant and available portion. The site of the Kremlin is magnificent—some people, of that class that will insist upon seeing nothing beautiful in London, even contending that it rivals "the finest site in Europe." Trafalgar-square; and the mass of building—palace, tower, and minaret—which crowns its summit, is commanding in position and majestic in appearance. The great square, surrounded on three sides by churches and palaces, commands from the fourth an uninterrupted and splendid view over a large portion of the city, whose green roofs and gilded spires form a picturesque middle and background to the sloping sides of the Kremlin hill itself, and of the river winding round its base. Beneath the Kremlin walls, on the side opposite to that bounded by the river, and separated from those walls by a plaza of truly Russian dimensions, is situated the "City," or commercial portion of Moscow. It occupies the site of the ancient Muscovite town, and is inclosed within its walls. The "City" is divided into two portions, the wholesale and the retail quarters. The retail business is carried on in a mass of low wooden shops—or, rather, booths—intersected by narrow alleys crossing each other at right angles, and so forming little blocks or squares of shops, something after the pattern of a chess-board; whilst the wholesale business has established itself in buildings of one and two stories high, but has not as yet aspired to the dignity of warehouses. I was shown the place where all the imports were stowed: it is an inclosed space, about as large as a good sized stable-yard, open to the canopy of heaven, and very scantily supplied with goods—a fact which was explained to me by the German friend who kindly acted as my guide in this wise. "The Russians," he naively remarked, "are a people so very simple as not to depend upon foreign trade for their commerce." The Bourse is a small oblong brick building; being Coronation time, they have covered the front of it with a tawdry transparency representing the Emperor in the capacity of patron of peace and protector of commerce, and it bears a close resemblance to Richardson's show. Between the wholesale and retail departments of the "City" is a strip of ground devoted to the sale of food and clothing for the humbler classes. It resembles a combination of Rag-fair and Clare-market, with their respective dirtinesses, done in Russian. I tried to force a passage through the dense crowd of peripatetic merchants and commercial mujiks therein assembled; but, being assailed on one side by a *cuisinier* who tempted me by thrusting under my nose a lump of steaming hot horse-flesh stuck upon a pole, and on the other by a clothier of the Hebrew persuasion, who nearly succeeded in enveloping me in a sheep-skin cloak in an advanced state of decomposition, I was fain to give up my philosophic intention, and be content to leave the unexplored abominations of the place to my imagination, fully satisfied that, at its utmost stretch, it could not do more than justice to the subject.

In the open space outside the Kremlin walls stands the many-spired church of St. Basil, commonly called Calico Church. Its interior consists of a network of separate compartments—a sort of cabinet series of chapels dedicated to various saints, each complete in itself, having its own altar and appurtenances within, and its own cupola and spire without. A Russian priest—he might perhaps have been a bishop—was gracious enough, for a small consideration in kopeks, to show us over this congregation of Lilliputian churches, and very curious they are; the walls of each chapel are lined with portraits of saints, portraits which originally were sufficiently mythical, but which are now rendered still more dubious by an incrustation of the dirt of ages which no sacrilegious hand is suffered to disturb. The faces only of these worthies are visible, their bodies being literally clothed in plates of gold or silver gilt, studded in many instances with precious stones. The female saints wear necklaces and ear-rings of pearls and diamonds, and have their heads ornamented with coiffures of the most elaborate and costly description. In some instances, where the saint is an especial favourite, or has been particularly successful in his or her intercession, he or she, as the case may be, is doubly coated with gold plate, the outer garment being tacked upon the inner.

In the cathedral I was shown tombs containing mummies, clothed in tissue of gold, and wearing tiaras of diamonds and emeralds. A small hole was cut through the various garments in which they were enveloped, in order to present a piece of the black and shrivelled flesh of the mummy to the pious lips of the faithful. Who these jewelled corpses were I know not, but presume them to be canonised dignitaries of the Church. One day I was fortunate enough to witness a procession, in which the relics of one church were being carried to make a morning call upon the relics of another. The relics, carried upon a hand truck, from the weight of metal in which they were encased were carried by several men, and attended by a suite of saints, all heavily dressed in gold and silver, and borne aloft like flags upon the tops of poles, proceeded to the church, accompanied by a cortege of priests and bishops, with the Metropolitan at their head. On arriving at the church, the relics (leaving, as is the etiquette upon these occasions, their suite at the door) were received by the officials of that church, conducted into the interior, and formally ushered into the presence of their brother and sister relics. After the usual ceremonies the relics took leave, no doubt much gratified with their visit, and returned to their own habitation in the same order as they went. In this scene the appearance of the priests and bishops did not strike me as being at all prepossessing. The impression conveyed to my mind as to their peculiar characteristics was that of dirt and duplicity. A more sinister-looking body of religious ministers or one less inclined to practise that virtue which is said to be next door to righteousness (though, like other neighbours, they don't seem to be always upon visiting terms) it would be difficult to find. In the matter of uncleanness, perhaps, an exception may be made in favour of the Italian Capuchins, a body whom in this particular it would certainly be difficult to beat.

The "fete of the people"—the preparations for which upon a scale of unexampled magnificence I have before described—duly came off upon the day appointed. And what a fete, from early morning throughout the whole day the rain fell in incessant torrents. Five hundred thousand people drenched and disappointed, sludging ankle deep for hours together about a muddy plain without any apparent object, or, if having one, apparently unable to realise it; a moist hand playing dismal airs in dreary harmony with the wretched weather; a slight excitement amongst the dripping crowd, as an intrepid aeronaut made his ascent, was greeted by the boys with cries of "ballo-o-on" in Russian, remained visible for a minute or two, and then disappeared in the murky atmosphere: a struggle at the fountains for "vodka," of which the soldiers appointed to distribute it appeared to get the lion's share, and the credulous outsiders, who threw their caps across the heads of the mob to be filled and returned to them, came off vodka-less and cap-less; and the sanguine ladies who had brought their washing-tubs to be filled with the precious liquor, had to carry them back empty, finding what consolation they could in inverting them upon their heads as a protection from the rain; a promenade à cheval by the Emperor and suite from the palace to the pavilion and back again; an open-air circus, with a lady equestrian performing in a sou'-wester and an elkskin wrapper; a theatre with an acrobatic performance before an audience of umbrellas—these were the chief characteristics of that melancholy fete. (See the large illustration at pages 390-391.)

As to the feast itself, it appears that, under an erroneous impression as to the powers of forbearance of the Russian people, the first comers were permitted to inspect the tempting display: the trial was too

great for them: with the ferocious swoop of a pack of their own native wolves they rushed upon their prey, tore the poor bedizened muttons into myriads of pieces, fighting wolf-like over the delicious morsels, and in the course of a few short minutes "left not a wreck behind." The bulk of the people who came later, therefore, lost their dinner; and, as the only compensation, gained hungry experience of the truth of that homely adage about the early bird and the worm.

The ground on this, as on all other occasions of public gathering at which I have been present, was kept by Cossacks. With our limited conceptions of the nature of a Cossack, we should consider the trusting of a body of these irregular gentry amongst a community of comparatively civilised beings as an extremely hazardous experiment. We should naturally suppose that a Cossack left to himself under such circumstances would give a loose to his native instincts, and, playfully spitting a few plump little children upon his lance, would gallop back to share with his comrades the enjoyment of a *déjeuner à la cabbiale*. But, far from this being the fact, the Cossacks in reality, patient and wiry themselves, and mounted upon the patient and wiry little steeds, of which they seem to form a part, and with which they do such wonders, constitute a most efficient body of horse, or rather pony, police. They will remain for hours—horse and man—motionless and silent as statues until some incident, or the receipt of an order, calls them both simultaneously to life, when they will dash full speed through a crowded thoroughfare, or dart through and amidst a *melee* of carriages, with a skill in the avoidance of danger to themselves and others which, even to a practised horseman is really something wonderful to behold. At feats of horsemanship they are, as might naturally be expected, particularly good. One, at which I marvelled greatly, is that of picking up, at full gallop, from the ground, a piece of money or other small object, and recovering their seat upon the horse.

In conclusion, I may render justice to the Russians for their behaviour in a crowd. The mujik, though an ill-odoured animal, appears to be by no means an ill-natured one, and on the occasion of this fete, as on other occasions, displayed an amount of forbearance and good-nature which would hardly have been shown by people claiming to be more polite, and to rank higher in the scale of civilisation. The Russian peasant, indeed, low as his estate be now, slave as he is—to his master—to his Church—to his Government—appears to be endowed with qualities which, under a more enlightened system would enable him to take a creditable place amongst the peoples of the earth.

### THE FESTIVITIES AT MOSCOW.

The special correspondence of the Continental Journals, if less voluminous than our own, is not inferior in ability. If we must assign the palm to a colleague over the water it would be to the *Nord*—which, besides a special correspondent possessed of graphic powers, has abounded in correspondence from native Russians having an accurate knowledge of their own history and manners.

#### DISTRIBUTION OF CORONATION MEDALS.

These are worth eightpence intrinsically, but now sell for ten shillings. A gentleman was intrusted with their distribution; but, as it rained heavily, he did not choose to do it on foot or on horseback, and therefore took a carriage with a velvet bag containing the medals. He started from the Kremlin, escorted by a crowd which was always increasing; and after a short distance he stopped, and, rising in the carriage, attempted to distribute the medals; but in an instant there were neither medals, bag, carriage, or gentleman: the bag was torn in fragments, the carriage was pulled to pieces, the gentleman took to flight, and the medals were in a hundred pockets.

#### LODGINGS AND LIVING.

As to hotel accommodation there has been many a "sell" in Moscow during the Coronation. Two foreigners, on the day of the entrance procession of the Czar, wanted a room, and agreed, after higgling and haggling, to pay 25s. per diem; but, on returning at night, found no beds in it, and had to pick out the softest plank of the floor!

These vast restaurants have been crowded during the Coronation. The most famous one—that of the Novo Troitsku Traktir—does business to the amount of £60,000 a year, and has an auxiliary establishment at the fair of Nijni Novgorod. In Moscow it has about twenty saloons, having a soldier with a medal at his button-hole as a porter. On going in you can see nothing: tobacco-smoke is so thick it seizes you by the throat and repels you; but at the end of a moment you re-enter the long halls filled with guests. In proportion as you advance the furniture becomes more comfortable, and the physiognomies of the guests change. At first you see workmen drinking tea in cracked cups, and served by servants in red shirts; but further on you find gentlemen seated at tables on which champagne sparkles, surrounded by waiters dressed in clean white. In one and the same establishment the corporal sips his modest cup of tea, and the rich man gives his Belshazzar's Feast.

The tables were covered with white cloths, having holes in them. The service was coarse crockery. Smoking was going on all around us. In one corner was an image of the Virgin, with the candle burning. The heat was insupportable; and to every proposal for an admission of a draught of fresh air the native Russians offer opposition. So it is that populations that live in very cold climates accustom themselves to an excessive artificial warmth. Spend a winter in Italy, and you are starved with the cold; spend a summer in Russia, and you are suffocated with the heat. We began with caviare, onions, and schnapps. The soups were curious, one of cabbage, the other a sort of matelote; after that we had sucking pig, a woodcock, and pine-apple preserve; in short, a dinner essentially Russian and essentially dear; an affair of nine shillings a head without counting the drinks; then comes coffee, and at your choice cigars or cherry-stick pipes. The *cuisine* appears to be delicious, in spite of the clouds of smoke and the coarseness of the crockery.

Another correspondent says that the waiters, dressed in white, look like chemists' apprentices, and have great dexterity: one, with the rapidity of a conjuror, divides the sugar for a dozen coffee-cups on a single plateau; another has a reputation in all Moscow for taking up a handful of lumps of sugar—being able to guess, without fail, how many lumps are contained in his ample fist. The *carte du jour* is in Russian, and therefore a puzzle to the uninitiated. The great delicacy is the fresh-water sturgeon of the Volga. The flesh is white, succulent, and much more delicate than that of the turbot. The soup was a mixture of vegetables and fish, which was very appetising. Of the *cuisine* in general it may be said that the cucumber and vegetable marrow predominate—so that you have cutlets with vegetable marrow, sturgeon with vegetable marrow, and cucumber salad with the roasts.

All games of hazard are strictly prohibited in public places, and card-playing appears to be very dear; one correspondent, for a game at a club, where he was a visitor, had to pay eight francs for card money. The favourite promenade of digestion is either the garden of the Kremlin, where there are pleasant seats and harbours—or else the boulevard, which is planted with alleys of trees.

Moscow during this solemnity is also the seat of considerable mercantile operations, so as to be a sort of fair. The vast influx of population causes the provision markets to be encumbered with flesh and fowls from Orel, Kursk, Toula, and other towns of the interior; while the railway and the carriers from Nijni and Novgorod convey quantities of fish from the Volga and the Baltje. A great deal of game comes by steamer down the Kama from Perm to Kasan, and thence here; and, notwithstanding the high prices, the merchants are making fortunes in the bazaars by their sales to strangers. With regard to the heightened price of living, one correspondent sets down the ordinary daily expenditure at a second-rate hotel for a single bed-room, table d'hôte, fiacre, and other necessities, at 61 francs per day.

#### THE REVIEW.

A review of 80,000 took place on the vast plains of Petrovski (three or four miles from Moscow) on the 14th September. His Imperial Majesty commanded. The staff attending the Emperor was a combination of all the brilliant costumes in the Russian service; to which were added a few scarlet uniforms from England, also officers of various ranks from France, Austria, Turkey, and Persia, forming a blaze of stars, feathers, &c. The manoeuvres extended over three or four miles, and consisted, as usual at reviews, of an arranged plan of

attack and defence. The regiment of Paulowski (so called from having been formed by the Emperor Paul) forming the attack and driving the defenders from the wood of Petrovski. This Paulowski regiment have a strange-looking shako, on which is placed a high brass plate somewhat resembling the plates worn by chimney-sweeps, but much larger: these plates of brass are preserved with scrupulous care; in several cases may be seen one or more holes made by the bullet of an enemy. After a battle, in which this regiment has been engaged, these caps and plates are eagerly sought for and a new cap is made to the old plate.

#### BANQUET IN THE RIDING-SCHOOL.

On Monday, the 15th, a banquet was given by the merchants of Moscow to the officers who served during the late war; his Majesty the Emperor presided, sitting on the raised dais as shown in the Sketch. It is impossible, in the limited space afforded in the drawing, to take in the whole of this vast room, we believe the largest in the world, being 662 feet long and 160 wide—above twice the length and breadth of Westminster Hall, and yet unsupported by pillars—this vast area was fitted with tables divided in the centre by two large orchestras. The windows were adorned with crimson curtains, evergreens, &c.; down the centre was a grove of shrubs, flags, warlike trophies, &c.; along the sides of the building galleries were erected, covered with green cloth—these galleries were filled with ladies. About 2000 officers were present at this gigantic feast. (See the illustration at p. 411.)

#### THE RACES.

On Tuesday, the 16th, the races took place here: the horses, and jockeys, and trainers, with one exception, all English: everything but the locality and a few peasants conspired to induce the belief that you were not in England. The company was scanty, and the sports seemed to create but little excitement.

On the 18th, in addition to the English racing, a body of Cossacks and Circassians (about forty) started together. The scene at starting was most exciting; the whole body burst off with a cheer at full gallop, but ere long the good horses were far ahead. The race was won easily by a Cossack officer, who was loudly cheered as he came in. Some daring feats of horsemanship were exhibited by Cossacks. Sir Robert Peel, who was at the meeting, placed a gold coin on the ground; the horseman, being about one hundred yards off, at a signal one of the Cossacks dashed at full gallop towards the money, and, when within a few yards of it, made a swoop from his horse, and dexterously picked it from the ground. This extraordinary and dashing feat was repeated by the whole body in turns; and about one in three succeeded in obtaining the prize. At length one of the riders fell heavily from his horse, and received severe injury. This accident closed the day's sport.

#### THE FIREWORKS.

The grand display of fireworks, accompanied by a monster concert, took place on the 29th. The Emperor had arranged to be present at eight o'clock, but many hours previously thousands and tens of thousands were taking up their positions, and as the hour approached, the throng became more and more dense—carriages, droskies, and every variety of locomotive at a first glance, appeared mixed in inextricable confusion with the thousands on foot. The site for the display was a large space of level ground, about fifty acres, in front of the Corps des Cadets. This large area was filled with a dense concourse, the numbers of which it would be difficult to compute; there, however, could not have been less than 30,000. The large central building of the Corps des Cadets was splendidly fitted up for the occasion. The centre was devoted to the Emperor and his suite. On each side of this building raised seats were carried to a considerable height and breadth, and afforded accommodation to those who could afford to pay from two to fifteen roubles for a seat.

The Emperor very punctually made his appearance, and was received by cheers from the vast multitude and by the Russian anthem from 2000 instruments and 1000 singers; the acclamations mingled with the grand burst of harmony from such a vast orchestra, choral and instrumental, produced a thrilling effect. Flights of rockets in all directions now took place; but, unfortunately, the atmosphere was damp and cloudy; no sooner, therefore, were the rockets discharged than they were quite lost, little being seen but smoke. The most attractive part of the display was the large transparencies, placed directly opposite to the box of the Emperor. The one on the left was at once recognised as a representation of the celebrated statue of Peter the Great at St. Petersburg. The centre-piece represented the triumphal arch at the Narva Barrier, St. Petersburg. The left portrayed a statue raised to the memory of the peasant Ivan Sousanin, who had, although at the loss of his own life, saved the Emperor Michael from assassination. These transparencies were displayed amid discharges of rockets and beautiful devices; but, as before stated, the night being unfavourable, the beauty was all but lost.

At the moment when these were all revealed the grand anthem was again performed by choir and band; and to this was added certainly the most novel feature of the evening, the time to the music being marked by artillery—the guns being fired by touching a galvanic wire, as easily as producing a note from a pianoforte. Although the guns were at some distance, yet the time was marked with tolerable accuracy. After this Titanic chorus a representation of the bombardment of Sinope took place, and consisted of rockets, muzzos, shells, blue-lights, blazing, banging, and rushing in all directions. This fancy bombardment continued above half an hour, but long ere it ended nothing whatever could be seen but smoke.

Some beautiful effects were produced by the electric light exhibited in several places from the top of the building, brilliantly lighting up various portions of the masses of people on the ground.

The rush to get away through the thick dark clouds of smoke and smell of gunpowder was wonderful. The confusion and struggle was, so report goes, attended with many deaths; one case of a Russian officer was authentic: he was struck in the back by the pole of a carriage, and died instantly.

#### CAMP AND REVIEW AT PETROVSKI.

The coronation of a Russian Emperor would have been incomplete without a military spectacle; and there can be no doubt that a European Sovereign can concentrate larger masses of troops on one of the Russian Czar. The estimates of the number of troops of the Corps of Petrovski vary from 120,000 to 180,000 men. At the review the infantry was massed in battalions of five lines, behind which were three other lines of cavalry and artillery; on the extreme right were the Circassians with their brilliant costumes, and then all these fine regiments of the Grenadiers of the Guard, separated from each other by their music, their drums, and with their red feathers, which broke the uniformity of the white and green line that extended from one end to the other of the vast plain. On the other side was the château of Petrovski and its gardens, while the hundred bellies of Moscow rose majestically in the distance. Every drosky in existence had been put in requisition, and clouds of dust covered the road thither.

When the Emperor appeared the enthusiasm of the troops was very great; an ardour was just completed, and a new reign was commencing. The troops were composed of the units that had been stationed in Finland, St. Petersburg, Livonia, and Curland, in case of attack in that quarter, in addition to the Russian Moscow. The review lasted three-quarters of an hour, and then commenced the vast defile, opened by the squadrons of Circassians, followed by the cadets of Moscow. The mitre shako of the regiment of Paulowski was much remarked, being the same description of head-dress that existed in the time of Peter the Great (and such as was worn by our own Cumberlanders at Culloden). These shakos are transmitted from generation to generation, and the pride of the soldier is to get hold of one that has been riddled by balls. The uniform most admired was that of the Riflemen recruited from the hunters of Siberia, who can bring down the heaver by a bullet lodged in the very centre of his forehead. They wear a black fur bonnet, cocked over the ear; a black tunic, with red sleeves; and soft boots, with tops turned down. The charge of eighty squadrons of cavalry raised such a blinding dust that the spectators were happy to escape.

#### THE IMPERIAL THEATRE ILLUMINATED.

The previous Theatre was burnt down on the 11th of March, 1853, after thirty-two years of existence; on which Mr. Albert Cuvos, the



architect of the Theatre of St. Petersburg, and of the Grand Post-office, was ordered to prepare plans for a theatre which should unite every known advantage and be as vast as any in existence. The result was an edifice rivaling La Scala of Milan in elegance, and San Carlo in extent. The theatre has six ranges of boxes, each uniting the privacy of the Italian and the openness of the French box; that is to say, with the little drawing-room at the back which can be shaded with red curtains, and in front an open balcony, which perfectly gratifies the vision. Several ladies ("crinolines included!") have room to sit in front. The grand tier is as with us immediately above the pit tier. In the body of the house there are four hundred and eighty stalls, and the theatre contains altogether two thousand three hundred persons, "without," says a correspondent of a French journal, "having your knees stuck into the *fauteuil* of your neighbour, or being obliged to screw yourself up every moment to let people out. Only the hatters and the corn-cutters of Moscow have a right to complain of the admirable convenience of these arrangements."

The style of decoration is a compound of Renaissance and of that Byzantine of which there are so many curious specimens in Moscow itself. The colours are chiefly white and gold and light blue, the draperies crimson damask. There are no painted ornaments: all are embossed with gilding, in the profuse and fanciful style of decoration of the Renaissance. The state boxes, which are of great splendour, forming magnificent saloons, are on each side of the stage—one for the Imperial family, the other for the State dignitaries. A third box, facing the stage, is reserved for the ladies and gentlemen of the Imperial household.

The stage is the broadest of any in Europe—twenty-two French metres—San Carlo (of Naples) being only eighteen, and the Scala (of Milan) seventeen; but it is not so deep as the stage of La Scala. The curtain, painted by M. Dusi, represents the entrance of Minime and Pojarski into the Kremlin in August, 1612, on the occasion of the expulsion of the Poles and the accession of the house of Romanoff to the throne of Rurik, after a long period of anarchy, usurpation, and foreign oppression. It is, no doubt, known to our readers that the present Imperial family is the offspring of the intermarriage of the house of Holstein with that of Romanoff. The ornaments of the house have been executed by Germans—the Adt brothers, of Munich. The machinery is by a Russo-German, M. Waltz; and the contractor for the building was a Russian, from St. Petersburg—Mr. Nicolas Terasoff.

The Italian company consists of Bosio, Lablache, Debassini, and others. Debassini has been very little in London, although his *Iago* made a sensation some years ago. He is now one of the best barytones in Europe. At the head of the French company are Mlles. Brohan and Thérèse, who have charmed the Moscow society in "Les Contes de la Reine de Navarre" (of Scribe), and also in the "Démocelles de St. Cyr;" Mademoiselle Brohan being pronounced in the French critical language "Adorable de finesse et de calinerie."

But the greatest of all the spectacles of the theatre was its external illumination, and that of the whole of the square, by no less than two hundred thousand coloured lamps. The form of this square being irregular, a number of houses were knocked down to make it a parallelogram, and arcades have been improvised in wood as a framework for the illumination. This decorative felicity has been planned by Mr. Cuvos, and the result is said to have been astonishingly brilliant.

## THE ARISTOCRACY AND BUREAUCRACY OF RUSSIA.

In the splendid festivity of a Coronation the Aristocracy of an empire necessarily figures prominently. But in Russia it is rather as incumbents of high places in the Court, the Army, and the Bureaucracy, than as a pure noblesse valid *per se*, that the descendants of the Dolgoroukis, Galitzins, and Narishkins meet our view. Previously to the time of Peter the Great, the great Boyards possessed great power, and frequently controlled the Sovereigns; but his reign was the turning point of the Monarchy, and Autocracy in Russia owes much of its prestige in consequence of its introduction simultaneously with civilisation. It has often been said that Despotism has created the excessive submission to authority, degenerating into servility, which exists in Russia, as contrasted with the rational submission to the law which exists in constitutional countries. But this, we apprehend, is to substitute cause for effect; and the more philosophic view of Russian history is to set down the deeply-rooted autocracy of Russia to habits of submission and secretiveness which are deeply inherent in all the Slavonic races.

In looking into the reign of Peter the Great we find that the nobles and the clergy formed a compact and fanatical body, almost as opposed to the civilisation and manners of Western Europe as the Ulema of Constantinople in our days. Nor was it merely religious and social prejudice that stood in the way of Peter. The "Long-beards" had also their janisaries who could fight as well as speak against innovation; and it was only after successive massacres of this body (the Strelitz) that Peter was enabled to carry out his reforms, and make Russia a member of the European family; for previous to him Muscovy was a country apart—semi-Oriental, with some of the liberty of feudalism; that is to say, not limited monarchy but anarchy.

In one of the massacres of the Strelitz we have the first appearance of the Orloff family. A Scotchman and a German, Generals Gordon and Schein, who commanded the troops of Peter, put down the revolt, and then began the executions. Peter, himself, took a delight in superintending these sanguinary scenes, and the coolness of one of the condemned saved his life. Just as he was going to kneel down before the fatal block, he saw it was encumbered with the head of one of his companions. He is said to have kicked it away, saying, "This is my place, it must be clear." Peter observed the act, and, being struck with the young man's calmness, granted him a pardon; afterwards, he placed him in a regiment of the line, where the Strelitz shortly so distinguished himself that he acquired the rank of officer, and consequently the title of noble. This Strelitz was named Ivan, and surnamed Orel, that is to say "the Eagle." He was the founder of the family Orloff, which within the last hundred years has been so prominently before the public.

Our readers must have noticed, in the account of the Special Correspondents, frequent allusion to the Preobrajenski Guards, as having been inspected by the Emperor Alexander II. More than any other corps, this regiment is associated with the autocratic suppression of aristocratic independence, which Peter carried through in so unrelenting a manner, and which may be said to be the foundation-stone of the fabric of Imperial Power in Russia. It was at his country seat of Preobrajen that Peter the Great gradually formed by European discipline this celebrated regiment, which became the nucleus of that formidable army which not only extinguished aristocratic independence at home, but which, abroad, made Turkey, Poland, and Sweden feel that henceforth the Czar of Muscovy was to take rank among the greatest sovereigns of Europe.

With Peter the Great, too, begins that systematic employment of able and intelligent foreigners which the Sovereigns of Russia have always played off as a counterpoise to the old Russian families. Le Fort was a Frenchman, Schein was a German, and Gordon was a Scotchman. Now Russia has able men enough born on her own soil to dispense with importations from abroad.

The reign of Peter was a bitter pill to the nobility in all respects. *Noblesse volentes* they were enlisted in the army; and, partly from Peter's practical sense, partly from his residence in Holland, merchants were placed at the head of the financial departments. The Greek monastic system fared as severely at his hands; he diminished the number of the convents, and threw obstacles in the way of persons taking the vow. When in France he saw that the rural clergy were active in agricultural duties; he resolved to make the Greek priests active and laborious, and subject to taxation—all which created deep dissatisfaction in the Church. But this he did not mind. Some one having informed him of his being preferred to Louis XIV. in an English journal, he disclaimed the superiority except in one particular. "Louis XIV.," said he, "is a greater man than myself, except that I have been able to reduce my clergy to obedience, while he allowed his clergy to rule him."

The ukase which finally annihilated the feudal privileges of the aristocracy and virtually excluded them from all right to a partner-

ship in government, was dated January 4, 1722. This established the well-known Tchin, or hierarchial order of gradations of rank, depending solely on ministerial nomination, not on hereditary right; and this, in fact, opened a career in the State to all persons not born serfs.

We have been thus full on Peter the Great because he is the true founder of the modern autocracy of Russia, and of the counterpoise of bureaucracy to the old aristocratic families of the empire.

Catherine having her power well secured, treated the aristocracy with great tact; and it was during her reign that the language and manners of France thoroughly impregnated the aristocracy of Russia. Even in our own day, if the tone of the generality of the bureaucracy of Russia be German, that of the higher aristocracy is decidedly French, with a tincture of even more obsequious politeness than what one finds in the best bred French, and indicating something of that excessive submission which distinguishes the Slavonic nations from the dry Germanic, the off-hand volatile Celtic, and the impassioned Roman races.

The doom of Paul ought to excite no surprise. An Autocrat of Russia may do many strange things; but the insane caprices of Oriental despotism were too much for even Russia; the more so as his reign came immediately after that of Catherine, so as to present a contrast to her tact and intelligence. Alexander was, upon the whole, popular with the aristocracy; and, although Russia had not representative institutions, there appears to have been a great deal of social liberty during his reign. On the contrary, under Nicholas, there can be no doubt that there was a terror of the severity of the Government which did not exist under Alexander. He was just and fair, but at the same time stern and implacable.

Modern books on the present state of the Russian aristocracy are numerous. The Marquis de Custine has written a very clever one, in which there are many curious things on the Russian aristocracy, mixed up with many profound and elegant reflections on not only the forms, but the spirit, of manners, which are as good as anything in Chesterfield. Unluckily, however, with all this profound reasoning on the spirit of society, he commits some of the most revolting social perfidies with a most amusing reliance on the reader's want of perception of the gulf which separates his theory and his practice. "Hommeaire de Hell" may also be consulted with advantage. But in technical correctness the reader will find most information in the second volume of "Golovin," who is a native Russian, well acquainted with the laws and regulations of the corps of the nobility as now existing. We give a quintessence condensation from "Golovin," and this seems the more necessary as the English seem to have as much difficulty in understanding the Russian nobiliary system as foreigners have in understanding ours. When Sir James Wylie, the physician of the Emperor Alexander, was knighted by George IV. the Czar inquired into the nature of the distinction conferred on his medical attendant; but, in spite of the explanations given him, confessed that he could not understand it, as the knighthood was neither an hereditary title nor conferred nobility. Custine himself, with all his intelligence and notwithstanding a residence in England, shows that he does not understand our nobility. Most of our new peerages are conferred on men of ancient family—those given to bankers, manufacturers, and merchants being the rare exceptions; but he imagines most of our modern peerages to be given to newly-enriched traders.

The Russians have two sorts of nobility, hereditary and personal—the former comprising six classes: those that have the title of Prince, Count, and Baron; the ancient noble families; the military nobles; the nobles of the eighth class; the nobles of Imperial creation; foreign nobles. Personal nobility is attached, in the civil service, to the ranks below the eighth class, or it is conferred by a nomination of the Emperor. The order of St. Stanislaus confers it on members of the Catholic clergy and on Baschkirs. The Russian nobility possess the faculty of entering the public service without being liable to be forced into it by the local authorities, unless by an express decree of the Emperor. They are exempt from all corporal punishment, before as well as during trial for any offence, and cannot be subjected to it but for a fact posterior to that which has deprived them of nobility. Convictions for treason, robbery, and murder, involve deprivation of nobility.

As regards property, the noble can establish manufactures on his estates without special permission, and he may acquire landed property with serfs, but cannot possess serfs without lands. The country houses of nobles are also exempted from being occupied by troops. These privileges appear slender to us, and are an object of satirical observation to their own malcontents, who say that "the rights of the Russian nobleman consist in entering the service if he is admitted, and leaving it if he is allowed to do so; in going abroad if he can obtain a passport; and in purchasing landed property if he has the money." When we look into the condition of this class we find that only the first of the six classes correspond with our idea of noble, and that for the other five classes there is no more than a recognised civic existence; for the nobility of each government forms a separate body, and has the faculty of assembling to consult upon its common interests. The right of sitting in these assemblies with deliberative voice belongs to the hereditary nobles who have at least a hundred peasants, or three thousand dessiatines fit for tillage. These assemblies have a house of their own, a secretary, archives, and a seal. They have no legislative power, and their functions are confined to discussion and petition to the governor of the province, the Minister of the Interior, or, in an extreme case, to the Emperor himself. Their chief power seems to be a disciplinary one over their own body, so that they can even put a spendthrift member of their own community under sequestration for the benefit of his family. Thus our readers see that, although the privileges of the Russian nobility are not like the citizenship of a free community, it is at least something that goes considerably beyond the satirical designation given above. The nobility, in fact, are the chief part of the nation; for they have some rights, while the other have only obligations. There are also great differences in the character and spirit of different sections of nobles. Those of the Court are obsequiously polite and submissive, but with a high intellectual culture. The courtiers of the German provinces are excellent men of business. The noblesse of the interior of Russia are much more free-thinking. They are highly hospitable, but their intellectual culture is very low except in superficial accomplishments, for they are quite familiar with the music of the last popular opera, or the last novel of the manufactory of Dumas, *filis et Cie*. In the Baltic provinces the culture is more solid, with a strong taste for English and French classical literature. The manners of the lower Baltic nobility are abrupt, and altogether showing much less servility, so that the late Emperor Alexander, at a ball at Revel, said aloud to his Generals, "Take notice they do not saute here as with us."

The most ancient and illustrious of all the noble families now under the sway of the Czar are the Princes Bagration—of Georgian, not of Muscovite, descent. From the most indisputable documentary evidence, their greatness can be shown to have existed as far back as the sixth century, and European writers have often recorded the splendour of the Bagratide Kings of Georgia. In antiquity, they therefore take precedence of all the Royal and aristocratic families of Europe. Their inheritance is now a part of the dominions of the Czar, but they still have a high position and great wealth. A scion of this family distinguished himself greatly in the campaigns of 1812 and 1813. This family has also resided a great deal at Paris; but not, we believe, permanently, since 1848. The second family of Georgia, with whom the Bagratians used to intermarry, is Orbelian, of Chinese descent. The name of one of this family, having the rank of a general officer, figured prominently in the recent campaigns of the Russians in Asia.

Of the purely Muscovite families, the most ancient are those of Dolgorouki, Galitzin, Troubetzkoi, Kourakin, and others of the race of Rurik. One of the most able of the Princes of the house of Dolgorouki was the well-known Nestor of Peter the Great. The late *ad interim* Minister for Foreign Affairs is Prince Dolgorouki, who was formerly Councillor of the mission at Constantinople, and subsequently Minister in Persia. He has lived much in Italy, and has great taste for the arts, particularly numismatics. The name Galitzin is derived from "Golitsa," a "gauntlet," a surname of the first ancestor of this race, who sprang from the Princes of Lithuania in the fourteenth century. But, emerging from the obscurity and uncertainty of the Middle-Age history, we find the great man of the family to have been a military commander in the earlier part of the sixteenth century—that is to say,

contemporary with our Harrys, Surreys, and Wolseys. The so-called Great Galitzin—who flourished in the latter part of the seventeenth century, and had the chief power and influence immediately before Peter the Great took the reins in his own hands—was a man of very extraordinary talent, and did much to beautify and improve Moscow, where he constructed the stone bridge over the Moskva. In fact, although a partisan of Sophia, the stepmother of Peter, and therefore opposed to the Narishkins, there can be no doubt that he was, in a way, the harbinger of Peter himself in imprinting a European civilisation on the hitherto barbarous Muscovites. But the accession of Peter proved his downfall; and, being exiled, with the deprivation of all his rank and wealth, to a frozen district of the government of Archangel, he died at eighty years of age. The branches of the Galitzin family became very numerous, and have at various times filled the highest offices in the State. One of them, Dimitri Mikhailovitch, after the death of Peter II., in 1730, was the leader of that party, which, having at its head the two families of Dolgorouki and Galitzin, attempted to place limits to the Imperial power; but the enterprise failed, and these men were provided with secure lodgings in the fortress of Schlüsselbourg, the Bastille of Russia. Another Galitzin was the well-known Prince Dimitri Vladimirovitch, who commanded the Russian cavalry at the Battle of Leipsic. He died at Paris in 1844, having been previously, for nearly a quarter of a century, the highly-respected and philanthropic Governor of Moscow. He is described by Count Amagro as a loyal man, of chivalrous character, who commanded with distinction different divisions of the army in the wars of the Emperor Alexander; and, thereafter Governor-General of Moscow for twenty-three years, he was the object of general veneration.

Next to the old families of the period of the race of Rurik come the Counts and Princes Saltikoff, Princes Lapoukin, Chérémétieff, Tolstoï, Golovin, Moussine-Pouschkin, Boutourlin, Naryschkin, Tchernycheff, Apraxin, Stroganoff, Roumantsoff, Panin, &c. The Menschikoffs, Woronzoffs, Potemkins, and Orloffs, are of more recent rise. The origin of the Menschikoff family in which we see a pastry-cook suddenly elevated to the highest honours, is a proof not only of the talent of the individual, but of that Oriental facility for leaping over barriers by the will of a sovereign which is characteristic of the older history of Russia. Potemkin's rise is also well known, and the reign of Catherine shows the elevation of many persons who had little more than personal appearance and manners. But Potemkin had tact and energy, which enabled him to retain his hold over the monarch long after the graces of his person had disappeared.

(To be continued.)

## BLENHHEIM.

(To the Editor of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.)

1A, Adelphi, Strand, October 11, 1856.

In your paper of to-day I notice an article on the extravagant demands made at Blenheim for viewing the palace and grounds, and beg to bear testimony to the same. At the time of the last Commemoration at Oxford, my brother and myself drove over to Blenheim to see this beautiful place, and were charged, in the first instance, five shillings for the park, and half-a-crown for seeing a small room with a few paintings in it. It was not a day that visitors are admitted to the whole of the palace, but only to this room; and on our coming out we offered the man a shilling; but, to our surprise, he demanded half-a-crown, which we were obliged to pay.

The last time I was at the Lakes in Cumberland I saw the whole of Lowther Castle and grounds for one shilling, and cannot understand why such a great difference should be made between the two places.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant, JOHN G. DAVENPORT.

## ROMAN COINS FOUND IN WILTS.—(From a Correspondent.)—

On the 26th ult. a small urn, full of Roman coins, was discovered at Mere, in Wiltshire. It appears that the workmen were engaged in draining the cemetery, when they met with what appeared to them a piece of iron. When struck with a pickaxe, instantly there flew out a great quantity of coins. The news soon spread, and the agent of the Duke of Cornwall, the lord of the manor, succeeded in obtaining upwards of 200, and at least 100 more have found their way into the hands of different persons in the town. The coins were inclosed in a small rudely-made urn, composed of greyish clay, and without any ornament whatever. In the scramble for the treasure the urn was completely broken, and the pieces dispersed; so that there is little chance of recovering it. The coins are all silver; many of them are in good condition, and a few of them appear as fresh as if they had been lately minted. They are stated to be almost entirely of the following Emperors, viz.—Vespasian, Titus, Domitian, Trajan, Adrian, Antoninus Pius, and Marcus Aurelius, with a few of Faustina, the wife of Antonius, and of Gaius, the wife of Adrian. The field in which the coins were found is about 200 yards south of the church; and there are apparently no vestiges of any Roman works within some miles of the town. The coin was imbedded in clay about eighteen inches under the ground.

THE ENGLISH AMERICAN TELEGRAPH.—Mr. Morse records, in a letter to New York, the results of some recent experiments in connection with the company which has projected the submarine telegraph between Europe and America. He writes:—"As the electrician of the New York, Newfoundland, and London Telegraph Company, it is with the highest gratification that I have to advise you of the result of our experiments upon a single continuous conductor of more than 2000 miles in extent, a distance, you will perceive, sufficient to cross the Atlantic Ocean from Newfoundland to Ireland. The admirable arrangements made at the magnetic Telegraph Office in Old Broad-street—for connecting ten subterranean gutta percha insulated conductors of over 200 miles each, so as to give one continuous length of more than 2000 miles—during the night when the telegraph was not commercially employed. Although we telegraphed signals at the rate of 210-241, and according to the count at one time even of 270, per minute upon my telegraphic register (which speed, you will perceive, is at a rate commercially advantageous), these results were accomplished, notwithstanding many disadvantages in our arrangements of a temporary and local character—disadvantages which will not occur in the use of our submarine cable."

ITALIAN SYMPATHISERS.—It is now perfectly clear, 1st, that the subscription for the ten thousand muskets, the initiative of which has been taken by the *Italia e Popolo* (the Mazzinian organ, published at Genoa) is intended for an object different from that of the Alessandria subscription; 2nd, that the former is Republican, since the muskets are intended for the first Italian province that will revolt; 3rd, that this subscription has been set on foot with a view to unite the Republican party; 4th, that it has miscarried, because, in order to find subscribers, its promoters have had to conceal their object; and therefore, 5th, whoever does not, in his heart, separate the freedom of Piedmont and the independence of Italy from the dynasty of Savoy and the monarchical constitution, must abstain from the subscription for the ten thousand muskets. Most of the names we read in that subscription list are foreign, and especially French.—*Risorgimento*.

COST OF AMERICAN RAILWAYS.—The American papers give a statement, made up to the end of 1855, of the extent and cost of the railways of the United States, compared with those of Great Britain. The number of miles of railway in America is 23,242, and the cost of construction has averaged 7,100*l.* per mile. For this country the total is put at 8,334 miles (reckoning 3,076 miles of double track as 6,152), and the cost has been 36,000*l.* per mile. The people of the United States, therefore, are congratulated on having obtained nearly three times the extent of railway possessed by Great Britain at little more than one-half of our cost per mile. The difference in the duration and general character of the work, and also of the rolling stock, must, however, be taken into account.

MONEY-MAKING BUSINESS.—It is reported that there never was greater activity seen in the French mints than there is at present. Not only is the chief establishment at Paris at work night and day, but the Minister of Finance has issued orders to the branch mints at Bordeaux, Rouen, Lille, Strasbourg, &c., to keep continually at full operation. At Paris the mint produces about 4,200,000*fr.* per day, chiefly in gold pieces; and at Strasbourg 600,000*fr.* in silver coin. The Bank of France is receiving gold at the rate of 5,000,000*fr.* per day.

COLONIAL GOVERNORSHIP NO SINECURE.—The labours of a Colonial Governor are recorded in the statistical summary of the Registrar-General of New South Wales for the year ending the 31st March last. During that period the Governor-General has written 1000 letters to the Secretary of State, 407 messages or speeches to the Legislative Council, and 13,600 letters, notes, or memoranda on a host of topics, public or private; delivered 49 addresses on various subjects—religious, charitable, scientific or literary; and held 1760 interviews with as many different people.

THE Bessarabian Frontier.—A Commission is said to have been appointed at St. Petersburg to draw up a map of Bessarabia. The maps that exist in Russia, even those of Poland, are very imperfect, and this explains the difficulties that have arisen in tracing out the new Bessarabian frontier.





SKETCH IN THE COURTYARD OF THE KREMLIN, ON THE DAY OF THE CORONATION.

## THE IMPERIAL PROCESSION.

This portion of the pageant is thus described. Forth walked the Emperor, wearing an Imperial robe and a crown of dazzling splendour. The flourishing of trumpets, the crash of bands, the swell of the noble National Anthem, "God Preserve the Czar," the roll and tuck of drums, the bells, the voices of the people—all these formed a strange *mélange* of sound, and stunned the ear; but when the Czar, passing out by the archway, made his appearance to the larger crowd, there was a noise like a roar of thunder, or the waves of the sea, which swallowed up all else. The people on the terraces below, on the banks of the river, and in the streets outside the Kremlin, took up the cry and shouted like the rest; and some, I am told, went on their knees in the dust and prayed for the Czar. In a few minutes the procession began to wind through the archway on our left, and to pass before the Cathedral of Michael. The priests, in golden state surplices, were waiting at the gates; and as the Emperor and the Empress (whom we had quite forgotten in all this wild triumph of adulation and Czar-worship) came up, sprinkled them with holy water, and gave them the cross to kiss. On entering, the Czar and Czarina kissed

the holy relics, and knelt down to pray before the tombs of their ancestors: after which the "Domine salvum fac" was chanted, and the Emperor and Empress continued their short march for a few yards to the Church of the Annunciation, where the same ritual was observed. On their way the cheers, the music, the bells, the cannon never ceased.

## FIREMEN GOING THEIR ROUNDS ON THE EVENING OF THE ILLUMINATION.

This sketch was made in the outer court of the Kremlin on the evening of the Coronation, when all was bright from the excessive glow of thousands of lamps, and the risk of fire was trebly hazardous; amidst the varied costumes of every nation in Europe, it formed a curious picture. At the head of the procession was a horseman with lamp; after him a footman, with double lantern on standard; and then followed the long procession of engines, water-barrels, firemen, &c., extending fully a quarter of a mile in length. This looked well, and, possibly the men and engines do their work efficiently in cases of emergency; but we could not help feeling that, if our own property should be in jeopardy from fire, we should certainly prefer the daring and active firemen of London to those of Moscow.



MOSCOW FIREMEN GOING THEIR ROUNDS DURING THE ILLUMINATION.





THE EMPEROR AND EMPRESS PASSING FROM THE CATHEDRAL OF THE ASSUMPTION TO THE CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION.—(SEE PAGE 400.)



## OUR COLOURED SUPPLEMENT.

## "MY PONY."

(A PORTRAIT OF "ALBONI." BY J. S. HILL.)

When the air smelled sweet of hay,  
And the hedgerows teemed with flowers,  
When the tired mowers lay  
Sleeping through the noontide hours,  
I, exulting in the sun,  
O'er the bristling turf, new mown,  
Made old faithful Jerry run  
Until he was fairly blown,  
Leading Podgy, my old Pony,  
Just like Charley's Pet, "Alboni."

When the leaves were brown and gold,  
Rustling, falling with each breeze  
(For the wind grown strong and bold  
Rudely shook the mightiest trees),  
On I rode through plashy lane,  
O'er the fields and through the ferns,  
To the wood, alive again  
With the beagles' waving sterna;  
Ah, old Podgy was a pony!  
Charley, he could beat "Alboni!"

When the Christmas-tide was o'er  
Jerry took me back to school,  
And as Podgy left the door  
How I long'd to be a fool!  
Now I'm old I sit alone  
With the shades of Grief and Joy;  
Knowing now that all is done  
The man 's no wiser than the boy!  
I for hobbies changed my pony,  
You be wiser—keep "Alboni!"

M. L.

## THE FISH GIRL AND THE SOLDIER.

(See Coloured Engravings.)

He looks very thoughtful, our friend the military man, as he sits there by the sad sea waves, in one of the most comfortable attitudes which the laziness of man has ever devised, and emits his occasional cloud from the short pipe. I do not know, and therefore cannot pretend to say, what is the subject of his meditations. I suppose that it is beyond the scope of art to denote, by facial expression, the exact character of what is passing in the mind of a quiet man, smoking. A German critic would find it out for you, whether it were there or not; but I am unequal to the task. Sydney Smith, according to Thomas Moore, desired a painter to throw into the face of a portrait a little more enmity towards the Church Establishment in Ireland. Michael Kelly says that he was asked by the author of the libretto of an opera to compose a few bars of music just describing a man's going into a foreign country and changing his religion. Mr. John Leech is occasionally favoured by the outside world with suggestions for caricatures for *Punch*; and one correspondent desired a drawing of a railway train containing the Ministers, and another train, out of sight, coming up with Mr. Disraeli and Lord Derby in it to smash them. A good deal, therefore, is expected from art. But I do not think that we could reasonably expect to learn in that clever profile likeness of our gallant ally what is occupying his military mind. Perhaps he is thinking that the *tabac* is very bad, and if he bought it in Boulogne, as is probable, I do not say that he is likely to be wrong. Perhaps he is considering how his comrade Jules contrived to put in that abominable kick on the side of the head during their combat of the *saute* this morning, and is devising a counter-kick for the benefit of the aforesaid Jules. Perhaps he is privately execrating the statesmen on each side of the sea he contemplates for patching up the peace which indefinitely postpones his taking out of his knapsack that Marshal's baton which he carries there. And perhaps—and the supposition is as likely as any of the others—he is listlessly trying over the burden of the favourite song of the "Zu Zu" (Zouaves), wherewith the army and its female admirers are constantly amusing themselves, and which you may hear, if you like, by taking a chair in front of the group of young ladies who compose the vocal staff of any *café chantant* in Paris. It is not exactly an edifying melody, nor has it the narrative interest of the "Sieur de Franc Boissy," but it has been sung in the Crimea with unflagging spirit, as the songsters rushed to the charge, while the Russian bullets were pitilessly weakening the vocal strength of the company.

One thing I will tell you, though, and that is that if our friend in the red trousers is thinking of the young lady on the opposite page, with any ideas of honouring her with his serious intentions, he is hopelessly throwing away his valuable time. He may carry a Marshal's baton in his knapsack, but, *en attendant*, he has no chance with her. Look at her well. She is the fishiest little aristocrat of her fishy quarter of Boulogne. He would have about as good a reception, if he, made love to her, as his Colonel would receive from a Legation heiress. Only a fish girl. Just so, and she looks upon "the wealthy sea" as her bank of unlimited issue, and has a due contempt for people who have no accounts there. "Smoke your pipe, good and brave soldier, excrete the *tabac*, kick Jules in the head, confound the peace (we are heartily with you), and sing how the "Zu Zu" and Sultanas everywhere, but take your thoughts away from Mademoiselle Virginie there. You are no Paul for her. Her very ear-rings, dear boy—you can't see them in the picture, but she has them—are worth your year's pay. Besides, the fish-people are a select and exclusive race. They have an ancient and fishlike distaste for the non-amphibious world. Like their friend Leviathan, their scales are their pride. They cultivate no alliances with us. Do not mistake her, *mon bon*. She is a good girl, very kind, very merry, has a musical voice, and her legs, now so carefully shrouded, are models of vigour and symmetry. She would cheat me, or any one else, in the most admirable manner in the way of business, just as British merchants, British bankers, and British traders would do; but her bright eyes would swim if she heard that one had met with an accident or was starving; she would run like a deer to get one a doctor, or some soup; and would let off at least a thousand affectionate profanities in her anxiety to have one properly cared for. But if you were to make her an offer, my poor fellow, she would laugh at your impudence, sing you a fish song (I never could get the words right, but it is something about a man who married a skate, and rather found it a *mesalliance*), and, if you persisted, one of her big-booted brothers would hint to you, with a boat-hook, that the family was undesirous of your alliance. She will marry a rich young fisher, pray for him before that great painted crucifix on the heights at Boulogne, and in due time add her brown-skinned, white-haired, well-clad little imps to the swarm that make that awful noise in the fishing-town up there—jolly, fearless urchins, with no rents and holes in their nether garments to suggest (as Hood said) that their mothers never looked after them. Smoke your pipe, my brave, hope for a European war, and resign all idea of Mademoiselle Virginie.

S.

## BOSTON CHURCH, LINCOLNSHIRE.

In 1309, at the time when Boston was one of the ten shipping ports of England, and, next to London, the principal one as to the extent of its shipments, the foundation of the present steeple of Boston was begun to be digged by many miners on the next Munday after Palm Sunday, and so continued till Midsummer following; at which time they were deeper than the haven by five foot, and they found a bed of stone upon a spring of sand, and that laid upon a bed of clay, the thickness of which could not be known. Then upon the Munday next after the feast of St. John the Baptist, was laid the first stone by Dame Margery Tilney, and thereon laid shce five pound sterling. Sr. John Triesdale, then parson of Boston, gave also £5, and Richard Stephenson, a merchant in Boston, £5 more. These were all ye great gifts at that time." Many merchants from Calais, Cologne, Ostend,

Bruges, and other Continental towns, resided at Boston at this time, and carrying on an immense trade in wool, leather, and hides; and from this circumstance the foundation of Boston steeple is traditionally said to have been laid upon wool-sacks. The tower was not carried up until a considerable time after the commencement of the building; and the nave, aisles and part of the chancel appear from the style of the architecture to have been built in the reign of Edward III. It is conjectured that the building of the entire edifice extended over two hundred years. From 1321 to 1410 grants of ground for the benefit of the Church of St. Botolph were made by Roger Gernon, Saier de Rochfort, Roger de Welby, Richard Finchbeck, and others; and in 1478 the College of the blessed Mary and St. Botolph was established in the Church, and endowed by the Abbey of St. Mary, at York, with lands and tenements of the annual value of £40; and in the same year the advowson of the Church of Boston was granted to the King Edward IV. and his heirs for ever. The Knights of St. John petitioned for the rectory to be appropriated to their Order; and they retained possession until the dissolution of the religious houses, when the advowson was given to the Mayor and burgesses. The living was then formed into a vicarage, the presentation vesting in the Mayor and burgesses until the Municipal Reform Bill took from corporations all church patronage, and the advowson was sold to Herbert Ingram, Esq., M.P. The first churchwardens mentioned are Goodlake Chapman, Christopher Hix, and Thomas Warre, who held office in 1550.

In 1602 the roof of the Church was repaired, and the chancel in 1604, 1606, and 1608, and again in 1663, 1666, and 1674; and also at intervals to 1783, when the ceiling of the roof of the middle aisle was found to be greatly decayed. On the 23rd of May, 1803, about two o'clock in the afternoon, the roof of the Church was discovered to be on fire, occasioned, it was supposed, by the carelessness of some workmen employed in repairing it. The fire had spread over one-third of the roof before it was observed, but, by the exertions of the inhabitants, it was fortunately extinguished. The repairs amounted to about £500.

In 1843 a subscription was commenced for the thorough repair of the Church, which had suffered much from decay and neglect, and a further sum was raised in 1851 for the same purpose. On the 12th of May, 1853, the Church was reopened, after the completion of extensive restorations, which cost £10,996 17s. 4d. A congregation of nearly 3000 persons assembled in the morning, the Bishop of Lincoln preaching the sermon.

We have been indebted for most of the foregoing particulars to the "History of Boston," by Mr. Pishey Thompson, and now on the eve of publication by Mr. John Noble, of the Market-place. This work, from its completeness of arrangement and intelligent research, combined with artistic and typographical beauty, is worthy of its subject, and we shall select from it such further description of the present state of Boston Church as our limited space will allow us to give:—

## THE EXTERIOR.

The present plan of this very beautiful building consists of a nave, with north and south aisles, a spacious chancel, the great west tower, a south porch, and a chapel at the south-west angle of the south aisle.

The east front of the chancel contains a well-proportioned window of seven lights, with flowing tracery in the arch, and highly-moulded jambs and label. The buttresses which flank this window are plain decorated work below, whilst the upper portions are in the light perpendicular style. The gable coping of the cross is also perpendicular. Previous to the late restoration this east window was a very inferior one, the sill having been raised several feet, and the mullions and tracery being very deformed and imperfect. The new tracery is studied from the existing decorated tracery in the Church, but the old window did not originate the present design. When the chancel was lengthened two bays during the perpendicular period, the architect was careful to remove and reconstruct the decorated east wall; for the present east end of the chancel, except the pinnacles and the coping, is the decorated one, rebuilt in the perpendicular period, but on new foundations two bays further east than where it formerly stood. The south side of the chancel exhibits five bays, each containing a four-light window. The three most westwardly bays show by the window tracery the extent of the original decorated chancel, and the other two as plainly indicate the perpendicular addition in the tracery of the windows. There is here done what was not often done; a decorative addition was made during the perpendicular period, with all the constructive details, except the window tracery, exactly similar to the decorated work. The parapet and pinnacles of the chancel are of perpendicular work, and have been pronounced too light. The priest's door is on this side; it was repaired and enlarged about a hundred years ago. The buttresses appear to have been altered, and shorn of some of their ornaments, and the pinnacles upon them are pinnacles, embattled, and crocketed. The cornice-moulding contains heads and bosses set alternately. The parapet of each bay is in six divisions, having alternately a square with a boss in the middle, and a square divided into three arched panels with trefoiled heads. In front of the two most western windows on the south side of the chancel formerly stood the vestry or sacristy, which was taken down about a century ago. Against this vestry and the east end of the south aisle formerly stood a building called Taylor's Hall; this was taken down by an order of the vestry in 1725; and the windows blocked up by this building were opened and glazed like the other windows in the south aisle. The east end of the south aisle has a window of five lights, with perpendicular tracery. The buttress is crowned by a square pinnacle of elaborate design, the sides of which are pinnacles, and contain niches with canopies for statues. The parapet of the gable is composed of quatre-foiled circles of open work. The south aisle contains five bays, the porch, and the chapel. The windows are of four lights each, varying alternately in the design of the tracery. There is a buttress between each two windows, the top canopy of which has boldly projecting gargoyle figures. The buttress next to the porch contains a beautiful niche, with crocketed pediment and canopy; and it may be inquired whether the other buttresses had not formerly the same ornament. The south porch is two stories in height, and has an imposing effect. The lower story is of decorated work, the upper one of perpendicular. Both the porch arch, and the doorway within it, are very excellent examples of decorated detail. In the east wall and adjoining the aisle is a staircase which leads to the upper room. The mode of adding the perpendicular work of the upper story to the lower one is curious, especially in the south face, where the low arch with hanging tracery surmounts the pointed decorated one. It is shown by the arch in the interior of the Church immediately over the south door, that the porch was originally constructed with a room over it; but, as first built, this room was no doubt partly in the high-pitched decorated roof.

The upper parts of the buttresses are simple and plain, but the lower stages contain very elaborate canopied niches, clearly showing where the new work is engrafted into the old. The buttress at the south-east angle of the porch was raised at the late restoration to its former height: it is hoped that the opposite buttress will soon receive its appropriate addition. The upper parts of the buttress pinnacles were probably cut down in 1663, when new battlements were erected to the porch. The upper room is chiefly lighted by a handsome south window of five lights. The east wall of the porch has undergone much alteration, and was, probably, formerly occupied by a chapel. There are now four small square-headed windows in the upper part of the eastern wall of the porch, and a roof of low pitch covers it. The apex of the gable received the addition of a handsome large stone cross at the late restoration. Attached to the west wall of the porch is a large chapel of the same date as the decorated portion of the Church, as is shown by the arches which connect it with the Church. This chapel is three bays in length, and is lighted on the south by windows of three lights. The general details of the chapel are plainer than those of the Church. The west end contains a well-proportioned window of four lights, having perpendicular tracery. The roof is also a good specimen of perpendicular panelled work.

The west end of the south aisle contains a window of five lights, with perpendicular tracery.

The south clerestory has twice as many bays and windows as the aisle; and where the clerestory is not lofty, this is a pleasing and good arrangement. The windows are of two lights, and of two patterns of tracery, used alternately. The buttresses are of slight projection, and contain brackets and canopies for statues, although there are no niches for the figures. The effect of this arrangement of sculpture is very good, and it is to be lamented that so few of the very graceful and beautiful statues remain. The parapet is of very good detail. The carving of the brackets under the statues, and of the canopies of the buttresses, is very curious and remarkably well executed.

The great beauty of the tower of Boston Church consists in its magnificent and grand proportions, and in the true relations which it bears to the body of the Church, to which it was an addition. It is divided in its height into four stories; the first being carried up as high as the ridge of the roof of the nave. It contains the great west window, and two others on the north and south sides, as well as the west door. The second story, or lower lantern, contains eight windows, two to each of the walls, and is a most magnificent feature of the design, both externally and internally. The third story consists of the bell chamber, and is lighted by four large windows; at the base of this story an external gallery is continued round the tower. The fourth story consists of the upper lantern, which makes a most elegant termination to this grand and majestic campanile. The whole of the external surface, except the part immediately below the octagonal lantern, is covered with panel-work, and the arrangement and treatment of the buttresses are particularly pleasing. The series of base-mouldings are bold and well designed, whilst the shafted buttresses of the first story, with their statues, have a very good

effect. The western door, though now much mutilated, contains some beautiful work. The lightness of the second story, with its double windows canopied, cannot be too highly praised. The pinnacles and battlements of the bell chamber story are of excellent design. The octagonal lantern is exceedingly beautiful, whether considered in the elegance of its appearance or the lightness of its construction. Each face contains a two-light window, divided by transoms into three stages, and there is a marked similarity between these and the windows of the second story, both in the design and general treatment. The parapet, with its richly-ornamented gables of open tracery-work, along with the eight pinnacles, and the gilded vanes, have a very elegant and light appearance.

The west end of the north aisle is similar to that of the south, whilst the general details of this aisle are plainer than those of the south, as may be seen in the window-jambs and the base-moulding. The curved heads set in the tops of the window-arches are remarkable and uncommon. Here is a north door without a porch. The parapet of the east end of this aisle is a piece of remarkably rich and delicate late perpendicular work—indeed such as has, probably, no superior, or even equal. The pinnacle adjoining is of equal beauty. The north clerestory has more statues remaining than the south, though, it all other respects, it is similar. At the east end of the north aisle, and occupying the west bay of the chancel, is erected upon the foundations of a former building the new room for the organ. The north side of the chancel is similar to that of the south.

## THE INTERIOR.

Entering by the porch, we find an object of attraction in the elaborate oak carving of the south door, of two different designs, in the decorated style, where the beautiful forms and ramifications of this era of Gothic architecture are displayed to unusual advantage. Passing this excellent specimen of ancient workmanship, we come to the font, the gift, in 1853, of A. J. Beresford Hope, Esq. It is capacious in size and of elegant decorated work; the wreath of vine-leaves round the bowl being a beautiful specimen of carving.

Over the font hangs a beautiful "corona," a choice specimen of modern metal work.

The tower is roofed with a magnificent stone vaulting, at the height of 156 feet above the floor of the Church, so that many spires would stand beneath the sculptured bosses of this, in some respects, unequalled vaulting. The centre boss before it was carved weighed six tons, and bears the "Agnus Dei." The four other principal ones, the emblems of the Holy Evangelists, the next four exhibit angels bearing the words, "O Lamb of God."

The nave is separated from the aisles by seven painted arches on clustered pillars, with plain moulded bases and caps; between the clerestory windows is a kind of impost, from which spring the arches of the groined ceiling, formed of oak, ornamented with ribs, and the intersections terminating in minutely-carved bosses: the effect of this roof is slightly marred by the want of height, but it appears that this was an addition to the original design of the builders; for the nave, with the aisles and chancel, were formerly covered with flat paneled ceilings, filled in with paintings of various Scriptural and historical subjects: part of one of these paintings still remains on a tie-beam of the nave roof; under these beams, on each wall, is a cornice of stone, with bosses, which were anciently seen in the interior of the Church.

The whole of the nave is fitted up with open benches of oak, all facing east, with the exception of those in the easternmost bay, which face north and south, and have poppy-heads.

The pulpit is placed against the first pillar from the east end on the south side; it is made of dark-coloured oak, with fluted columns of the Ionic order, and semicircular arches on pilasters. It is hexagonal, and is embellished with carving of the time of Queen Elizabeth.

In the south aisle, near the east end, are three stone walls, with pointed arches cinque-foiled, on clustered pillars; the mouldings of the arches spring from corbel heads; east of them are a piscina and credence-table. Near the sedilia are two niches, with elaborately-sculptured pedestals and canopies, and between them is a broad recess with a pointed arch. Here, before the Reformation, was probably a private chapel, or additional altar. In this and the opposite aisle are several of these broad recesses. Two of them in this aisle are occupied by altar-tombs—one a knight of alabaster in his harness, lying recumbent on the tomb, which is also formed of alabaster, paneled in front, with angels bearing shields, under ogee canopies crocketed and finialled, and separated by buttresses in two divisions; the other is an alabaster figure of a lady on a tomb of black marble, ornamented in front with quatrefoiled circles inclosing shields. These aisles, as mentioned above, had formerly flat paneled ceilings; these were taken down in 1781, and the present groined roofs erected, which display considerable skill, although some of the details are rather faulty.

The chancel is ascended from the nave by a row of two steps, through the gates of an elaborate screen, the block part of which is only at present completed. The tracery of this screen is of brass, of beautiful design and workmanship.

The ancient stalls still remain, and have recently been restored and cleansed from the numerous coats of paint with which they have been covered. Nine of the canopies have been restored by private subscription, and more are about to be added.

The seats are placed in double rows on each side of the chancel. The subella, or small seats with which the stalls are furnished, move on a hinge, and, when turned up, exhibit carvings in bold relief, and either refer to ancient legends of the saints, or the local history of the place, or display in symbol or caricature the pursuits or propensities of individuals.

The floor of the chancel is paved with Yorkshire stone, crossed at intervals with encaustic tiles. The communion-table, of English oak, is large and massive, and is approached by a flight of eleven steps from the nave. The space within the inclosure is paved with rich encaustic tiles in patterns. The iron rails, erected in 1754, before the communion-table, have been painted blue and gold. Two large candleabra, twelve feet high, with seven lights each, stand between the rails and the communion-table. In the north and east walls are "ambries," and in the south wall is a piscina.

The east chancel window is filled with elaborately painted glass, designed with a view of combining the genealogy of our blessed Lord with his great and everlasting glory; and the artists have availed themselves of the architectural disposition of the openings to produce the best arrangement possible.

The organ is placed in a recess in a building prepared for it on the north side of the chancel.

The room over the southern porch is said to have been used, previous to the establishment of the parish library, as a school-room "for the teaching of petty scholars." The first notice we find of this library is in 1635.

A painting by P. Mequignon, from the celebrated work of Rubens, in the great church at Antwerp, was presented to this Church by William Smith, Esq.; it is placed over the south door of the nave in the arch which connects the library with the nave of the Church. This painting is in three compartments, and represents the Crucifixion, the Annunciation, and Presentation in the Temple; and, before the late repairs and restoration, it was placed at the east end of the chancel behind the communion-table. The chapel on the west side of the porch opens into the nave through two arches, the lower parts of which are fitted with a neat wooden screen, and are now used as a vestry and record-room: it is traditionally called the Founder's Chapel, we do not know upon what authority. It was formerly used for the teaching of the school founded by Mr. John Loughton, in 1707. The vestry-books, &c., are now contained in a fine old oak-chest.

At the west end of the nave are two spiral staircases leading to the roof and tower. On the door of one is a beautiful bronze handle; the ring, formed of two lizards, is held in the mouth of a lion, wrought in full relief. "The bells are covered with a flat leaded roof, placed level with the transoms of the windows of the upper story of the tower; on the west side is a low, broad door, opening into a gallery, which continues quite round the outside of the belfry; this door seems to have been intended for the occasional removal of the bells."

The first mention of the bells is in 1553, when it is said there were "five great bells in the steeple, and a sanctus bell." The Corporation Records state, that the bells were repaired in 1627. A sixth bell was added previous to 1709; for, in that year, a faculty or license was granted to recast the "immense old bell" hanging in the tower, which was of little use and imperfect sound, and publishing the holy hours imperfectly, and of the metal of the said bell to make three smaller ones. Two of these bells to be added to the six now in the tower, and the third bell to be for the clock to strike upon; and to tell the hour to the people loudly and clearly, and to place the same on the lantern or highest part of the tower, to place and suspend the same for the better and more audibly hearing of the sound thereof.

The large clock-bell, directed to be melted and recast, weighed above 4000 pounds. The new clock-bell, at that time cast from part of it, weighed only 533 pounds. The large clock-bell was of the kind called, from the shape, a *saucer* bell. It was suspended in the tower-lantern. The new clock-bell, cast in 1709, was suspended below the leaden roof of the belfry; this bell is said to have been cracked in 1751. In 1758 a new clock-bell was directed to be made, the weight of which was not to exceed 1000 pounds. It is upon this bell that the clock strikes at present.

The clock and chimes are first mentioned in the Corporation records in 1614, when John Tomlinson was admitted a freeman gratis, "he agreeing that he will, during his life, keep the clock and chimes in order, and all the ironwork and wires belonging to the same, and to keep all the chambers and bell-lofts clean during his life." In 1732 new chimes were ordered, they struck upon the eight-peat bells. They became imperfect, and ceased to play in 1832. In 1825 the Corporation subscribed 100*l.* towards a new clock. This clock was fixed in the ringing chamber in 1827, the entire cost attending it being about 900*l.* It was refitted in 1853, and fixed in the bell-chamber; the cost of refitting and refixing being 53*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.* The quarters strike upon the two bells cast out of the great bell in 1709. The old figures, called "quarter-jacks," were sold in 1853.

The second bell of the six in the tower, being cracked, was also recast in 1709, and the eight bells were first chimed in the steeple December 17th, 1710. The sixth bell was recast, and the bells generally put in order in 1758, by Thomas Eyre, of Kettering. Mr. Scott says, "The bells were originally rung from the little stone galleries which run round the second story of the tower, on the level of the window-sills, the ropes passing









SOLEMN ENTRY OF THE EMPEROR OF RUSSIA INTO MOSCOW.—FROM A LITHOGRAPH PUBLISHED BY A. RUDNER, MOSCOW.—(SEE PAGE 400.)



## THE NEW PUBLIC OFFICES, AND THE WESTMINSTER IMPROVEMENTS.

THE Government scheme for the rebuilding of the Public Offices (of which we gave some particulars last week) is one which, both on account of the magnitude of the plan, and its important bearings upon the architectural character of the metropolis, is deserving of the most ample and careful consideration. The funds of the State have so often been frittered away in failures, casting ridicule upon the public taste, and operating as a sore discouragement to art enterprise, that we confess we cannot approach without some misgiving a project so extensive as that before us, which bears evidence of having been somewhat hastily resolved upon, and which is to be pressed forward with a degree of speed almost unprecedented in works of the kind, and utterly incompatible with the mature consideration which they would properly call for. But it is unfortunately too frequently thus with our Government in affairs of this sort—dilatory in setting about what every one knows will one day have to be done, and then unduly precipitate in getting it done somehow, when a short additional delay would be of no great consequence. The state of our Public Offices in Downing-street and Whitehall has been a subject of general complaint, amounting positively to public scandal, for many years past. Government after Government has investigated the matter, and Committees have reported upon it, recommending many schemes of improvement; but nothing hitherto has been done to meet the evil, save on the principle of the most absolute and arbitrary patchwork. Of course every patch was a job which brought emolument to the fortunate designer and contractor. But the end of a long series of jobs was, that the whole concern was just as open to patching and jobbery as if nothing had ever been done.

Of course there are exceptions to every rule, and there have been exceptions to this system of patchwork in Public Offices, some having been left relentlessly unpatched, uncared for, to await impending ruin. In this category, by singular fatuity, are our Foreign and Colonial Offices—the very departments most open to the prying eyes of strangers, and which for a long series of years have continued to exhibit to astonished Ministers Plenipotentiary, and Colonial agents the most painful spectacle of hopeless dilapidation, which it would be impossible for any Chancery barrister's most sanguine imagination to surpass. A Committee of the House of Commons reported in 1839, that, "from the evidence they had taken, and also from their own personal inspection, the buildings now occupied by the Foreign Office and the Colonial Office, consisting originally of eight private houses, are inadequate to the present extent of public business, in parts unsafe, and generally in such a state of dilapidation as to render it inexpedient to expend any large sum upon their substantial repair." This was published seventeen years ago: during all the intervening period—acting upon the suggestion that nothing should be done in substantial repairs on these rotten buildings (which were two hundred years old, and the value of the materials of which are estimated at £200 and £300 respectively, nothing was done. What could be simpler? The foundations were left to "settle" in the peat upon which they were built, the walls to crack with the weight of the superincumbent chimneys, and, in spite of shoring and iron-tying, the floors began to sink and yield in all directions; so that on one occasion, when my Lord Malmesbury did the international honours of the kingdom, in a grand ball at the Foreign-office, the diplomatic triflers danced in absolute peril of vanishing through the boards into the cake and trifle on the super-tables beneath. These dangers were pitiously related by the ex-Foreign Secretary at the time, and not altogether unheeded were they, though the remedy has been too long delayed. Last year a bill was brought in, under Sir William Molesworth, called the "Downing-street Public Offices Extension Bill," making provision for a new establishment for the Foreign and Colonial Ministers and for other Government departments. This passed successfully through the ordeal of a Private Committee, but nothing came of it. It was allowed to drop, and Lord Clarendon was left to prop up the falling fortunes of his house for another season as best he might.

We shall have occasion to refer to some of the features of this measure of 1855, before we have done with the subject. Meantime, it only remains to add, that an affair which all the time from 1839 till 1855, was considered so unimportant as not to call for any positive interference; which, in 1855, was taken in hand merely to be abandoned again; is now taken up with an earnestness and hot haste, which makes one tremble equally for the danger it is proposed to avert, and the danger of future disappointment and disgrace which may be in store for us. Four months—barely four months—are all the time Sir Benjamin Hall thinks it necessary to give the architects of England and of Europe, to prepare plans for a grand scheme of architectural works, which, with works to follow, will cover the space of many a Continental city.

Whilst, however, the Government have been for so many years utterly reckless of the condition of our poor Foreign and Colonial departments, it has not been so with that other block of buildings called the "Treasury," and their doings with respect to it have been of a keeping with that which is unfortunately too common with them in all cases where public works and public money are concerned. The carcass of this building was originally built in the time of George I. It was new fronted in a heavy style, and incompletely upon an incomplete plan (having only one wing possible) by Sir John Soane, early in the present century; and only ten years ago Sir Charles Barry was employed to new face it in a highly-ornamented Italian style, in which it still subsists. This last job, we submit, was a pure waste of time, talent, and material, inasmuch as the reorganisation of the whole system of public establishments had long been acknowledged to be an inevitable necessity, and under such circumstances it was obviously undesirable to undertake partial works which would either be but of ephemeral existence, or, if destined to permanence, could not but have a tendency to prejudice the freedom of invention in designing future larger works. Would it be a very extravagant idea to suggest that in all this foolish, and upon any patent, rational grounds, unaccountable proceeding, there was something more than accident; and that the architect of the Palace of Westminster, when approaching the completion of his life-long work, was advisedly permitted to set the type of the

Palace of Whitehall, which it now appears is to be built up and brought into juxtaposition with it? We think this not at all improbable, looking at the whole history of the affair, and taking into account the answers of Mr. H. A. Hunt, the Surveyor to the Board of Works, before the Committee, which sat in June last, who, after speaking of the proposed buildings as "a grand architectural affair," is asked "what style of architecture do you contemplate?" to which he answers, "I suppose an elaborate Italian building;" and being again asked "Like the present face of the Treasury?" replied, "Something of that description." Now supposing this to be the idea, and the idea to be carried out in its natural course, the suddenness of the demand now made for tenders for the buildings, for which the Government have issued specifications, and of which some complaint has been made by a large body of the profession, becomes of the less importance. Four months were indeed much too brief a period for the devising and designing a palatial establishment, covering 825,000 square feet in superficial extent, with suggestions for improved approaches to Westminster-bridge, preparing plans and elevations, &c., according to the Government specifications; but when once it is understood that the style of architecture is fixed, patterned out; the number and dimensions of the principal apartments being already prescribed; the thing becomes comparatively easy, and such as a mere architectural draughtsman might acquit himself of, at least, respectably. In common fairness, however, supposing our hypothesis to be correct, an outline of the pattern building, the "sample brick," as it were, ought to have been sent round with the specifications for the information of the competing architects; otherwise, those who have not had an opportunity of examining Sir Charles Barry's work, will start at a serious disadvantage as compared with those who have. We do not make these observations in any capacious spirit; we simply insist, as we think we have a right to do, that, unless justified upon some such supposition as that which we have suggested, the alteration of the decorative features of the Treasury buildings in 1847-8 was a work of positive waste. The Government, in their specifications, invite designs for a general scheme for the "concentration" of the principal public offices upon a given site, to be carried out—or not—progressively at some future time, and designs for buildings which they "have determined to erect forthwith as parts of such scheme," namely, one for the Department of Foreign Affairs, the other for the War Department. As a matter of course, the style of architecture adopted for these two particular buildings must rule all that are to come afterwards; and as they are to be erected in immediate contiguity to the Treasury buildings before mentioned, they must either be in harmony with the latter, or these must be sacrificed, and reconstructed in harmony with their new neighbours. The specification states that, in the general scheme to be sent in, "the Government buildings, or any of them now standing on the site, may form part of the general plan to be submitted by any architect, if he should consider them available for that purpose"—a condition which, of course, implies the permission to raze any or all such existing Government buildings. This discretionary power might possibly be exercised by the competing architects, in the case of having seriously and immediately in view the larger general scheme of "concentrated" offices as a whole; but such is not their position. They are to begin with a small job, and that small job is to bind the larger. The permission to retain, therefore, amounts to a positive injunction; and, retaining as we do the Barry-Soane façade of the Treasury, shall not all the rest necessarily be Barry-Soane?

In order to understand the full scope of the Government plan, and what is meant by the "concentration" of offices proposed, it becomes necessary to recur to the evidence before the Committee which sat during the past Session on this subject. Strangers to official life, foreigners, and country cousins on a lionising trip to London, are little aware of the haphazard, make-shift arrangements which apply to a large proportion of the public departments in which the business of the country is conducted; many of these departments having their head here, their hands a mile off in different directions, their legs in all sorts of places, running about to keep up the circulation, and various close family relations packed away in lodgings temporarily provided in out-of-the-way streets, generally at exorbitant rents. The business of the War Department, for instance, is carried on in seventeen different places; and the Treasury and Board of Trade have several out-settlements. In fact, there is scarcely any department whose business is entirely conducted under one roof. The quantity of house room thus rented for Government accommodation has gone on rapidly increasing of late years; for it is a circumstance which staggers one a little at first sight, that, whilst the kingdom itself has not increased in dimensions, or in its colonial possessions, the taxation has increased; and, concurrently with increased taxation, there has of course been an increase of establishments, with commissioners, clerks, and so forth. Well the total amount of house accommodation rented by Government for the use of departments, which would otherwise be unprovided for, at the present moment, costs no less than £22,000 a year. Of course there is a great deal of overcharge—of what are called "fancy prices," to make up this outlay; there always is where public money is concerned; and what renders all this the more inexcusable and annoying is, that the greater part of the houses so rented for public purposes stand upon ground which is Crown or Government property, and which might have been applicable to the public service on much more economical terms, but for the reckless way in which, at all times, Crown land has been dealt with—jobbed away to speculators at terms much below its value, to be afterwards relet to Government at an enormous profit. It would scarcely be believed by any intelligent foreigner, but it is nevertheless the case, that although there are Crown lands to the extent of a good square mile or more in the immediate vicinity of the Treasury and Horse-guards towards the north, and in the very heart of business; besides a large plot on the other side of the road, facing the Treasury buildings, bounded by the Thames—besides more in various parts contiguous—the Government now come forward with a plan to buy large plots of land in a less convenient locality than either of the two referred to, further south, further from the centres of business, namely—between Downing-street, Westminster-bridge, and Westminster Abbey; and even contem-

plate extending their acquisitions of territory to the very back slums of Westminster—in the classic purlieus of Tothill-fields and Horseferry-road, with a penitentiary and a gas-works in the immediate neighbourhood. Before this gigantic job—with all the little progeny of jobs to spring out of it—is sanctioned; before the first acre of ground is purchased, the first brick laid, we entreat the public to consider well what they are asked to do, and what they will be "in for" if they do it. These things are generally neglected by the public—the paying public—till it is too late. The official procedure in all cases of public outlay is wonderfully facile—deliciously mysterious: a bill is brought in in an empty House; a Select Committee sits, which nobody attends but those directly interested in the job to be transacted; a report is published, which nobody reads; votes on account are called for, which nobody takes the slightest trouble to ask a question about; and then the affair is considered fairly launched; has a recognised "local habitation" in the annual Estimates; and the money keeps on being voted and spent as a matter of course to an indefinite period—at any rate, till the favoured job is succeeded by something better.

We shall close the present observations by simply drawing a comparison between the Molesworth plan of 1855 and that now submitted by the Board of Works for the extension and consolidation of the Public Offices. In a subsequent article we shall go more fully into the question in all its bearings.

"The Downing-street Public Offices Extension" plan, prepared by Mr. Pennethorne, which was approved by Sir W. Molesworth, and sanctioned by a Select Committee of the House of Commons last year, was based upon a recommendation of the Committee of 1839 for extending the area of the Public Offices to Fludyer-street, and the Park boundary on the north and west; but proposed a further extension south, to Upper Crown-street and Lower Crown-street. Upon the plot of ground so set free for the purpose, Mr. Pennethorne laid down a plan for buildings affording ample accommodation for the Foreign, Colonial, and War departments; besides offices and residences for the Chancellor of the Exchequer, offices for the First Lord of the Treasury, additional offices for the Board of Trade, Ministerial reception-rooms between the Foreign and War offices, and, further, a pile of buildings for public offices unappropriated; the whole surrounding a quadrangle, measuring 250 feet by 150. The total cost of these buildings, with fittings, including purchase of land, and making pavement, roads, &c., and allowing ten per cent for contingencies, was estimated at £585,000.

Mr. Hunt's plan, of 1856, approved by Sir B. Hall, and now in course of being carried into execution, is upon a much larger scale, and much more expensive. Mr. Hunt proposes, in the first instance (to say nothing of subsequent additional schemes), to take in all the ground between Downing-street and Great George-street, and between Richmond-mews and Bridge-street, north and south, and between the park, and the river west and east. Upon this ground, besides new offices for the Foreign, Colonial, and War departments, he proposes to build house room for all the various departments which are now located in hired premises in various parts of the town. Of the total cost of this scheme Mr. Hunt gives "an approximate estimate," founded merely upon average experience, judging from the surface to be covered, which amounts to £2,500,000 in round numbers, being more than four times the cost of the Molesworth plan of last year. From this amount Mr. Hunt proposes, however, to make a deduction on account of the rentals to be saved of £22,000; which, capitalised at thirty years' purchase, would represent £666,000; and then he says there will be £330,000 "saved in other ways"—making a gross total to be deducted of say £1,000,000; leaving the total outlay of the scheme at £1,500,000. But these calculations, and the scheme itself, require further consideration. When we undertake a great public work of this kind, we should be perfectly satisfied that the very best available plan is adopted, and that it is carried out in the best possible manner; and neither of these desiderata appears to us to be guaranteed by the plan so hastily propounded by the authorities for the time being of her Majesty's Board of Works.

MR. J. MACGREGOR'S EXPLANATION.—Mr. Macgregor, M.P., in a letter addressed to the *North British Daily Mail*, makes the following explanation of his conduct in reference to the Royal British Bank:—"Sir,—With respect to the calumnies which have been charged against me, I need only advert to a simple narrative of facts. First, I was neither the projector nor founder of the British Bank. Mr. Menzies was the projector. Messrs. Mullens and Laddison, and Mr. Moxhay, then proprietors of the Commercial Hall, were those who first proposed to me to become a director, while I was residing at Brighton, to which place Mr. Mullens, Mr. Menzies, and others came to persuade me to assist them to get a charter. I refused. Afterwards, on the ground that industrious traders, artisans, and shopkeepers, had no banking facilities in London as in Scotland, I very imprudently consented to become a director. Mr. Moxhay died soon after, and the Commercial Hall, which he proposed should become the property of the bank, he taking the value in shares, was abandoned. Then the premises, occupied previously by the once great firm of Reid, Irving, and Co., were taken and fitted up as a banking-house. The board-room was up stairs; the manager's room and the whole business transacted on the ground floor. I relied implicitly on the manager and Mr. Mullens. They on the weekly board day placed before the board a statement of the affairs of the bank; and up to the time I left the direction I believed everything correct. Neither I, nor any other director, as far as I am aware, knew anything of any private book kept by the manager, nor could I know the persons in the city whose paper was worthy of being discounted. Dannel and Seales were represented by the manager, on the authority of an eminent gentleman in the Bank of England, as fully trustworthy. This led to the disastrous advances on their coal and ironworks in Wales; and which, so long as I was a director, I urged should be realised, instead of attempting to work them. A similar attempt on the part of the Bank of England having utterly failed, a second blunder was advancing on the security of Westminster Improvement Bonds; a third was on the shares of the Islington Cattle Market; a fourth was to a shipowning firm, 'Oliver, of Liverpool. Of the value of such securities I could know nothing; therefore I became convinced, but too late, that in the City of London, as is, I believe, the true and practicable custom in Glasgow, no one should be a director of a bank but a City man of business. For it was and is impossible for a purely West-end man to know who ought or ought not to be trusted. It was under these convictions that I separated myself from all joint-stock connections. As regards liabilities to the Royal British Bank, I deny the amount of debt, either legally or equitably; and for any legal debt, of which, when I can ascertain the details, which I cannot for some days, there are numerous offsets, as Transferred New Three per Cents in the Bank of England, 1900*l.*, then at 95*l.*; 500*l.* Stock at par; other securities, valued each at from 300*l.* to 400*l.*; two valuable life policies, that especially of a very old one, in the law, for 1000*l.*, to which several large bonuses have been added. As I have concluded in haste, I will only add that I will not shrink before calumny, nor shrink from paying any just claim that may be proved against me. I will not yield to clamour nor injudice—I am, Sir, yours, &c., J. MACGREGOR.—Athenaeum, October 9, 1856."

STATUE TO THE LATE EMPEROR NICHOLAS.—Preparations are making in St. Petersburg for the erection of an equestrian statue to the late Emperor Nicholas. The site is to be the square which lies between the cathedral church of St. Isaac and the palace of the Grand Duchess Marie; and the pedestal will exhibit on its sides bassi-relievi representing four leading incidents in the reign of the Czar.









BALL IN ST. ALEXANDER'S HALL, IN THE PALACE OF THE KREMLIN.—(SEE PAGE)



Oct. 18, 1856.]



BANQUET GIVEN TO THE OFFICERS OF THE CRIMEAN ARMY IN THE GREAT RIDING SCHOOL, MOSCOW.—(SEE PAGE 400.).







Twenty thousand tickets were issued for this festival, which, although not intended for the mujiks, was nevertheless of a popular character, and comprised all the leading citizens of Moscow. Russia is the country of contrasts, and the splendid halls of the Kremlin Palace were opened to crowds and classes that would receive no admission to the halls of royalty in even the most democratically-tinged monarchies of Europe. The superb staircase of Finland marble, usually trodden by chamberlains covered with gold embroidery, was, on this occasion,





STATE BALL IN THE HALL OF ST. VLADIMIR.

the scene of an heterogeneous crowd, some astonished, others displaying their vanity. The uniforms on this occasion were drowned in a deluge of black coats. The women of the middling and humbler classes were in their ball dresses and the ladies of the aristocracy wore the old national peasant's dress, but with diamonds instead of common ornaments, velvet instead of coarse cloth, and valuable furs instead of sheepskin.

Again the National Hymn announced the arrival of the Emperor and the Royal family without the guards or gigantic negroes. An alley was opened for them, and after a little dancing a portion of the guests were conducted to supper. The Emperor wore the uniform of the Rites of the Guard. The Empress wore the national dress. Many spectators from the Western part of Europe expressed themselves better satisfied with this festival than with any of the other more popular demonstra-

tions. It was the best opportunity of seeing the people of Moscow, that is to say, something between the Court festivals purely attended by the higher ranks, and the demonstrations on the plain on the occasion of the great popular festival. In richness the dresses and jewels of the wealthier citizens rivalled those of the higher aristocracy.

#### THE HALL OF ST. VLADIMIR,

one of the superb palace-halls in which the Imperial Ball was given, was erected in honour of the Grand Prince St. Vladimir. It is of an octagon form, nearly equal in height and diameter, the height having the preference. The ceiling rises in the form of a dome, having in its centre a lantern, which admits light to the interior. The walls of the sides and ceiling are rougeâtre, corresponding with the colour of the ribbon of the Order of St. Vladimir.

The arabesque ornaments on the ceiling, which is divided into sixteen divisions, are raised and gilded; the centre of each division or compartment, bears the star and cross of the Order, surrounded by a wreath of laurel, also in relief, and gilded. The lower half of the side walls is divided into arches, supported by columns and pilasters of rose-coloured marble, capped with bronze capitals. In the four angles are niches, in which are placed very superb candelabra. The upper story is also divided by ranges of arches, some of which contain windows—the principal being on the side of the Boyards' Terrace. The doorway at the side leads to the Church of the Saviour, and there are glass doors leading to St. George's Hall. There is a corridor from this Hall to the Hall of Gold of the Czarina. The glass in the doors is decorated with the insignia of the Order, corresponding with the rest of the decorations of the building.





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"MY PONY."